Fisher makes Hall of Fame | Historic jockey Albert Adams | Laurel battles track issues

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Vol. 29, Issue 6
JUNE 2021

High Flyer

Vintage Vinnie soars to Hunt Cup record

70 2-Year-Olds of 2021

Divining Rod

a forked stick used in locating the source of water, or
a bay colt used in attracting mares

Tapit–Precious Kitten

Last chance to book a late mare before his first crop runs

Divining Rod, who won Laurel's Polynesian S in 2017 and trained at Fair Hill, is a classic-placed earner of $882,604

LYDIA A. WILLIAMS (2)

By Leading Sire of Leading Sires TAPIT: sire of Constitution, Frosted, Tonalist, etc.

JIM MCCUE (2)

3/4-sis to Leading Sire Kitten's Joy, G1SW dam Precious Kitten earned $1.9 million

A mere head-bob decision in the G1 Cigar Mile is all that separated Divining Rod from being a G1-winning millionaire.

RICK BUCKLEY

Divining Rod after his third-place in 2015 G1 Preakness

Owned by Roy and Gretchen Jackson's Lael Stables, Gainesway Farm and Country Life

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• • • • •
$300 per start
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Stakes Opportunities at Colonial Downs For Virginia-bred, Virginia-sired, Virginia-certified

MONDAY, JULY 19

$100,000 Bert Allen 3&up 1 1/16 m Turf/VA Restricted*
$100,000 Meadow Stable 3&up, 5½ f Turf/VA Restricted*
$100,000 Nellie Mae Cox F&M 3&up, 1 m Turf/VA Bred/Sired
$100,000 Tyson Gilpin F&M 3&up, 5½ f Turf/VA Restricted*

MONDAY, AUGUST 2

$100,000 Hickory Tree 2YO, 5 f Turf/VA Restricted*
$100,000 Keswick Stables F 2YO, 5 f Turf/VA Restricted*

MONDAY, AUGUST 9

$100,000 Van Clief F&M 3&up, 1 1/16 m Turf/VA Restricted*

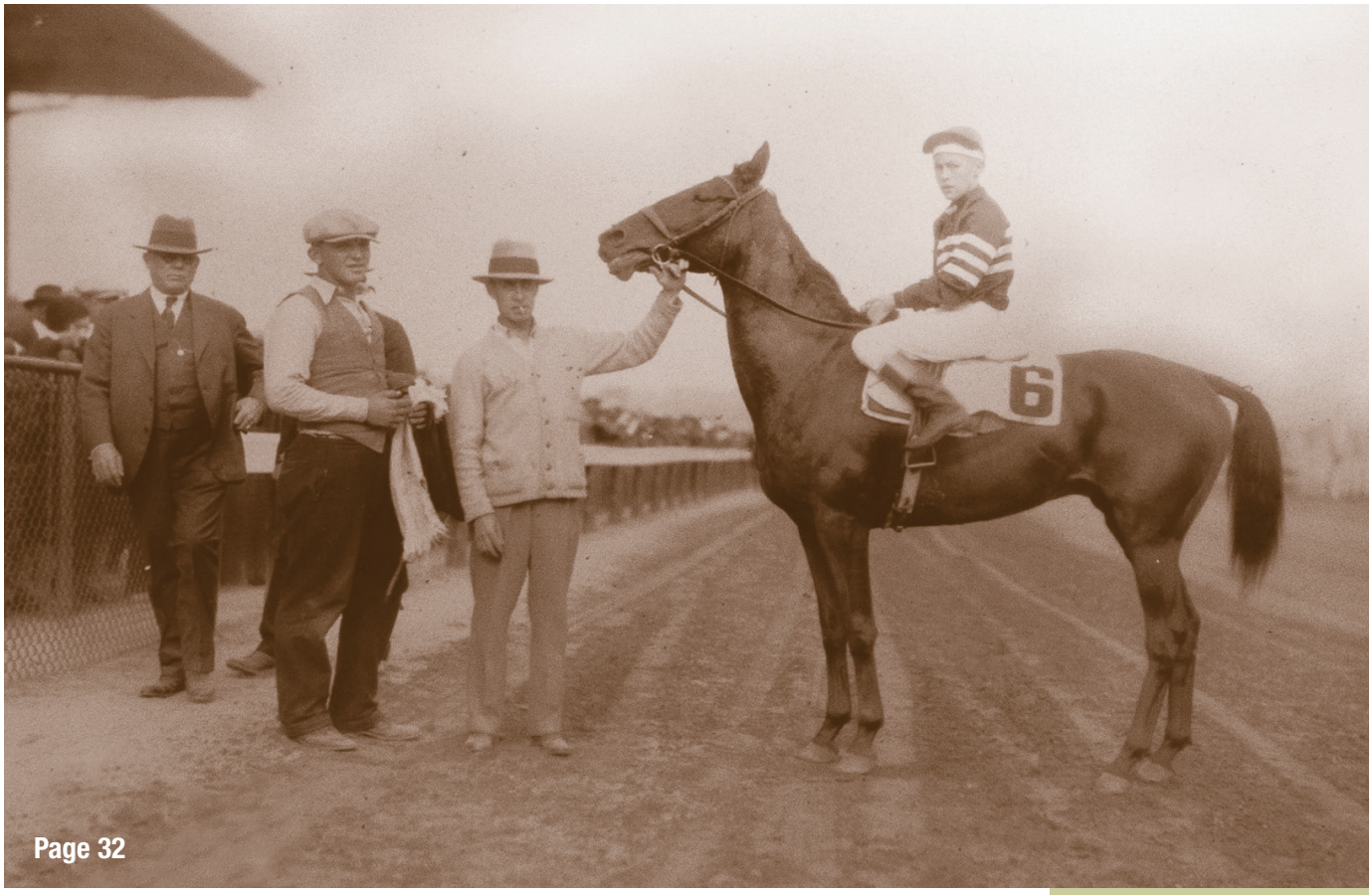
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

$100,000 Jamestown 2YO, 5½ f Turf/VA Bred/Sired
$100,000 Camptown F&M 3&up, 5½ f Turf/VA Bred/Sired
$100,000 Brookmeade F&M 3&up, 1 1/16 m Turf/VA Bred/Sired
$100,000 Edward P. Evans 3&up, 1 m Turf/VA Bred/Sired
$100,000 Punch Line 3&up, 5½ f Turf/VA Bred/Sired

**VA Restricted includes VA Bred, Sired and Certified horses*

* All owners who start a horse at Colonial Downs will receive the greater of $1000 or their share of the purse money from the race.

For more information on Virginia Bred, Sired, and Certified horses go to VAbred.org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In this issue

Spring timber classics thrill once again

After missing a year due to the coronavirus pandemic, timber classics My Lady's Manor, Grand National and Maryland Hunt Cup–each more than 100 years old–come back to life. Vintage Vinnie takes the Manor, and sets a course record in the Hunt Cup, while Le Chevalier shines in Grand National. By Joe Clancy. Page 18

Baltimore's Adams still holds riding record

It's been almost 91 years, but the riding feat turned by jockey Albert Adams in 1930 still resonates with his family and–if you dig–in racing history. The Baltimore native won with nine consecutive mounts at the old Marlboro Racetrack. By Sandra McKee. Page 32

Pony Power: Been Redeemed finds his niche

He was a racehorse, briefly and not all that successfully. Before that he was something of a pet. Now he's a lead pony and part of the team at trainer Hugh McMahon's barn. Meet Been Redeemed. By Sara Gordon. Page 38

Just keep winning . . .

Steeplechase star Snap Decision runs his winning streak to eight with a victory in the Temple Gwathmey for Bruton Street-US, trainer Jack Fisher and new jockey Graham Watters as the spring steeplechase schedule slides into gear. By Sean Clancy. Page 50

Cover: Vintage Vinnie sails the 13th fence while alone–all alone–on the lead of the Maryland Hunt Cup. The Irish-bred set a course record under 20-year-old Dan Nevin. Photo by Douglas Lees.

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87th Annual

MHBA

THOROUGHBRED Yearling Show

Sunday, August 1 at 10 a.m.

Judge: Gary Contessa

Purse awards totaling $40,000

Horse Show Ring, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium

Entries close July 1st

$25 per horse • Call the MHBA office at 410/252-2100 or visit www.marylandthoroughbred.com for forms and information

Yearling Show Purse awards total $40,000

There are two opportunities to win purse awards with the yearling you show in 2021. A $40,000 MHBA Yearling Show purse will be split and distributed twice: $20,000 will go to the top four money-winners racing as 2-year-olds in 2022* and another $20,000 will be awarded the following year to the four highest-earning 3-year-old performers*.

**all earnings verifiable by The Jockey Club*

Four classes. Maryland-sired colts and geldings; Maryland-sired fillies; out-of-state-sired colts and geldings; out-of-state-sired fillies.

Cash awards. **$1,000** in CASH AWARDS to ribbon winners in each class plus **$1,000** for grand champion, **$500** for reserve champion. Trophies and ribbons in each class. Award of **$100** to the groom of the best turned-out yearling in each class. All entries must be eligible for Maryland-bred registration.

Maryland Million cash awards. The Maryland Million certified yearling earning the highest ribbon in each class will receive **$100.**

Get of sire award. **$1,000** to the sire whose offspring earn the most points.

2020 GRAND CHAMPION
WHERE'S BRIDGIT
GreenMount Farm's
Bernardini filly out of Mystic Love

MARYLAND-BRED RACE FUND

2021 MARYLAND-BRED/MARYLAND-SIRED STAKES SCHEDULE

Through December 2021

June 12

$75,000 BEN'S CAT 3YO & Up, 6 furlongs, Turf

July 3

$75,000 JAMEELA 3YO & Up, Fillies and Mares, 6 furlongs, Turf

August 21

$75,000 STAR DE NASKRA 3YO, 7 furlongs

$75,000 MISS DISCO 3YO, Fillies, 7 furlongs

$75,000 FIND 3YO & Up, 1 1/16 miles, Turf

$75,000 ALL BRANDY 3YO & Up, Fillies and Mares, 1 1/16 miles, Turf

November 26

$75,000 HOWARD BENDER 3YO & Up, 7 furlongs

$75,000 POLITELY 3YO & Up, Fillies and Mares, 6 furlongs

December 4

$100,000 MD JUVENILE FUTURITY 2YO, 7 furlongs

$100,000 MD JUVENILE FILLY CHAMPIONSHIP 2YO, Fillies, 7 furlongs

Find it on MarylandThoroughbred.com

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Weekly Entries & Results • Alpha–by Horse, by Breeder, by Stallion

Maryland Sires

CURRENT ACTIVE SIRES

Today's Entries • Yesterday's Results • Runners by Year Listings

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

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Delaware Park
2021 STAKES SCHEDULE

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RACE	DISTANCE	TO BE RUN	PURSE (Guaranteed)	CLOSES	NOM-FEES
The Alapocas Run Stakes 3 Year Olds & Upward	6 furlongs	July 3	$50,000	June 19	FREE
The Christiana Stakes - Grade BT For Fillies 3 Year Olds	1 mile & 1/16 (Turf)	July 3	$75,000	June 19	$50
The Kent Stakes - Grade III For 3 Year Olds	1 mile & 1/8 (Turf)	July 3	$150,000	June 19	$200
THE DELAWARE OAKS - Grade III For Fillies 3 Year Olds	1 mile & 1/16	July 3	$300,000	June 19	$200
The Peach Blossom Stakes* Fillies and Mares–3 Year Olds & Upward Ⓓ	7 1/2 furlongs (Turf)	July 7	$50,000	June 24	FREE
The Sussex Stakes* For 3 Year Olds & Upward Ⓓ	7 1/2 furlongs (Turf)	July 8	$50,000	June 24	FREE
The Battery Park Stakes For 3 Year Olds & Upward	1 mile & 1/16	July 10	$50,000	June 26	FREE
The Dashing Beauty Stakes - Grade BT For Fillies and Mares–3 Year Olds & Upward	6 furlongs	July 10	$100,000	June 26	$50
The Robert G. Dick Memorial - Grade III Fillies and Mares–3 Year Olds & Upward	1 mile & 3/8 (Turf)	July 10	$150,000	June 26	$200
THE DELAWARE HANDICAP - Grade II Fillies and Mares–3 Year Olds & Upward	1 mile & 1/4	July 10	$400,000	June 26	$250
The Cape Henlopen Stakes 3 Year Olds & Upward	1 mile & 1/2 (Turf)	Aug 11	$75,000	July 29	$50
The Blue Hen Stakes* For Fillies-2 Year Olds Ⓓ	5 1/2 furlongs	Aug 25	$50,000	Aug 14	FREE
The Dover Stakes* For 2 Year Olds Ⓓ	5 1/2 furlongs	Aug 26	$50,000	Aug 14	FREE
The Small Wonder* For Fillies-2 Year Olds Ⓓ	5 1/2 furlongs	Sept 25	$100,000	Sept 15	FREE
The First State Dash* For 2 Year Olds Ⓓ	5 1/2 furlongs	Sept 25	$100,000	Sept 15	FREE
The Tax Free Shopping Distaff* For Fillies and Mares–3 Year Olds & Upward Ⓓ	6 furlongs	Sept 25	$100,000	Sept 15	FREE
The New Castle* For 3 Year Olds & Upward Ⓓ	6 furlongs	Sept 25	$100,000	Sept 15	FREE
The George Rosenberger Memorial** ◊ For Fillies and Mares–3 Year Olds & Upward	1 mile & 1/16 (Turf)	Sept 25	$75,000	Sept 15	FREE
The DTHA Governors Day Handicap** ◊ 3 Year Olds & Upward	1 mile & 70 yds	Sept 25	$75,000	Sept 15	FREE

Horsemen please remember to check all condition books for Overnight Stakes that are not listed here for the 2021 Racing Season.

* restricted to Delaware-bred and/or Certified horses Ⓓ denotes Delaware Certified
◊ Delaware Certified horses will receive up to a $50,000 bonus if finish 1st, 2nd or 3rd

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POST TIME

HALL OF FAME SALUTE. Steeplechase trainer Jack Fisher, here aboard Saluter at a packed Virginia Gold Cup in 1994, was voted into the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in May. He'll be officially inducted in August, after winning 13 National Steeplechase Association championships and training the earners of more than $17.8 million.

Douglas Lees

Say It Again

"It just cut back on my 50-yard dash time a little."
Steeplechase owner Ben Griswold IV, 80, covering plenty of ground while carrying a cane to help with a tricky back at My Lady's Manor

"I told him, 'If there's anything wrong with you, I'll be riding this fella.'"
Steeplechase trainer (and so far retired jockey) Mark Beecher to jockey Graham Watters about debut timber winner Road to Oz

"I was standing at that jump down there and . . . it's the best."
Retired trainer Dr. John R.S. Fisher, describing Le Chevalier's jumping style to trainer Julie Gomena after the Grand National

"I wish he was 10, but I'm happy he's not 14."
Trainer Joe Davies, about 12-year-old Maryland Hunt Cup winner Vintage Vinnie

"Training horses is all I ever wanted to do. I remember being 11 or 12 and telling my mom I wanted to train and she said it was wonderful. From that point on with her endorsement I never thought of doing anything else."
New Hall of Fame trainer Todd Pletcher

"Judging on Arch winning, I've got 20 years to go."
Jockey Graham Watters, 29, after jockey Arch Kingsley Jr. came out of retirement to win a maiden on Kilronan at age 48

"He's a horse that always gives you 100 percent. Even when you're not asking for it."
Jockey Dylan McDonagh after a front-running win aboard Eryx at Middleburg Spring

GO FIGURE

3 Wins by Maryland-breds among the six National Steeplechase Association timber races in Maryland in April—Road to Oz (bred by Larry Johnson), Awesome Adrian (Nancy Jane Austin Reed) and Include It (Fitzhugh LLC).

6 Homebreds in a seven-runner filly/mare maiden hurdle at the Middleburg Spring Races in April. Speed Alert picked up the win for Peggy Steinman.

9 *Maryland Horse* and *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* cover images from the Maryland Hunt Cup for photographer Douglas Lees, who added to his collection with this month's remote shot of Vintage Vinnie.

37 Year age difference between Richard Boucher and daughter Mell Boucher, who each won races on the steeplechase circuit this spring.

65 Years between wins for a Virginia-owned and -trained horses in the Grand National timber stakes. Owner Mike Smith and trainer Julie Gomena won the 2021 race, duplicating the feat of owner/trainer Cyrus Manierre and Uncle Pierre in 1956. Special thanks to photographer Douglas Lees for the history lesson.

NAMES OF THE MONTH

Fire in the Hole. Richard Golden's homebred 3-year-old filly is by Declaration of War out of American Victory. She finished third in her debut at Pimlico May 8.

Blue Danube. The 5-year-old gelding, based in Maryland with Jose Corrales, is out of Majestic River.

Romp. Stuart Janney III's 3-year-old colt, an entrant at Pimlico on Preakness Weekend, is out of Scampering.

Hunt Cup Heroics I

In April Perry Bolton, 90, won the Maryland Hunt Cup as a partner with Ben Griswold IV in Armata Stable's Vintage Vinnie (Ire). A conversation a week later uncovered a handful of gems from a life in and around racing.

About great-uncle, and famed racing official, George Brown Jr. (who won the Hunt Cup twice as a jockey): "In those days when a rider went before George Brown, he shook in his boots. He was a wonderful country gentleman who was very firm and good at his job in the horse world. He was a great model for me growing up. He used to take me to New York to see The Rockettes. He loved The Rockettes. Of course, he snored so much that we had to get two hotel rooms."

About his first win as an owner: "It was at Timonium, September 1947. I was the exercise boy and the owner. The horse was Peri Pomme and he'd come from my grandmother. Jack Ball was my trainer and they told me 'Give your jockey a hundred dollars and it would help.' I did, and Peri Pomme won."

About Vintage Vinnie's attitude toward his owners: "He's quiet and calm, just an old dog around the barn, until they take him out to gallop. He goes to the top of one field and when he sees the gate at the other end, off they go. As far as being there and being around him, he's just an old shoe—as nice a horse as can be."

Hunt Cup Heroics II

In the midst of an interview about his Maryland Hunt Cup winner Landing Party, Dr. John R.S. Fisher shifted gears to share a memory of the race and its lore. He was in a conversation with Tommy Smith, who won the Hunt Cup five times including three aboard Jay Trump in epic battles with another three-time winner Mountain Dew, and asked Smith for his "most significant" Hunt Cup memory.

Fisher paraphrased Smith: "It was rainy and misty and you really couldn't see up along the woods with the mist and everything. All I can remember, Janon Fisher was next to me on Mountain Dew and I was on Jay Trump and it felt like we were all alone out there. He was right alongside of me and I could hear the click, click, click of the stirrups touching each other."

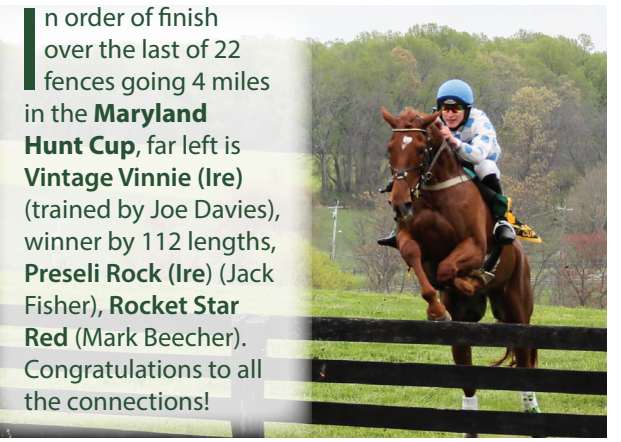
Fisher paused, let the words sink in and the arm hairs stand straight up, and said "That was sort of cool to hear."

And the 16th is sort of a serious timber fence.

Mill-Fueled Trifectas

1-2-3 in the Maryland Hunt Cup

1-2-3 in the My Lady's Manor & the Streett



In order of finish over the last of 22 fences going 4 miles in the **Maryland Hunt Cup**, far left is **Vintage Vinnie (Ire)** (trained by Joe Davies), winner by 112 lengths, **Preseli Rock (Ire)** (Jack Fisher), **Rocket Star Red** (Mark Beecher). Congratulations to all the connections!

Robert Keller Photos

The world's greatest timber race aside, Mill-fueled horses had a huge day at the Manor Races, finishing **1-2-3 in the My Lady's Manor, 1-2-3 in the John Rush Streett Memorial**, plus a 1-3 score in the Voss and 3rd in the Schapiro.

Totals through April from all the 2021 Maryland point-to-points: **11 wins, 10** 2nds, **12** 3rds. Congratulations to the stables of Joe Davies, Jack Fisher, Mark Beecher, Willie Dowling, Forrest Kelly, and Alicia Murphy.

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MILESTONES

Announced: The 2021 class for the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame–Triple Crown winner **American Pharoah** and trainer **Todd Pletcher** who will be joined by steeplechase trainer **Jack Fisher** (see separate news item). American Pharoah and Pletcher were elected in the contemporary category in their first year of eligibility. American Pharoah ended racing's 37-year Triple Crown drought when he swept the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes, and Belmont Stakes in 2015. A bay colt bred in Kentucky by owner Zayat Stables, American Pharoah was trained by Hall of Famer Bob Baffert and ridden by Hall of Famer Victor Espinoza. Beginning his career in California, American Pharoah won the Eclipse Award for champion 2-year-old male in 2014 thanks to Grade 1 victories in the Del Mar Futurity and FrontRunner Stakes. As a 3-year-old, he won the Grade 2 Rebel Stakes and the Grade 1 Arkansas Derby before becoming America's 12th Triple Crown winner. American Pharoah went on to win the Grade 1 Haskell Invitational and Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Classic. Overall, American Pharoah posted a record of 9-1-0 from 11 starts and earned $8,650,300. He was voted Horse of the Year and champion 3-year-old male for 2015. Pletcher, 53, a native of Dallas, went out on his own after working as an assistant to Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas from 1989 through 1995. He won his first race in January 1996 with Majestic Number at Gulfstream Park. The University of Arizona graduate owns records for career earnings ($405,791,977) and Eclipse Awards (seven) and ranks seventh all-time in wins (5,118). He has won the Kentucky Derby with Super Saver (2010) and Always Dreaming (2017) and the Belmont Stakes with Rags to Riches (2007), Palace Malice (2013), and Tapwrit (2017). Pletcher has won 11 Breeders' Cup races, including the 2019 Classic with Vino Rosso. He has led all North American trainers in earnings 10 times. Pletcher has trained 11 Eclipse Award-winning horses — Hall of Famer Ashado, English Channel, Fleet Indian, Lawyer Ron, Left Bank, Rags to Riches, Shanghai Bobby, Speightstown, Wait a While, Uncle Mo, and Vino Rosso. "I'm really humbled to be elected to the Hall of Fame. It's an incredible honor and something that doesn't happen without having great support around you," Pletcher said. "I've been extremely fortunate to have a great team to work with and my family has been there every step of the way. There have been so many great owners who have trusted me with their horses and those horses have meant everything to me. Along with my family and team, I had amazing opportunities to learn from the likes of Wayne and Jeff Lukas and working winters alongside Kiaran McLaughlin, who taught me a lot about horses and also how to work with owners and communication skills. It really was a stroke of good fortune to come up with people like that around me.

Named: By the nominating committee of The Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act members of the HISA Authority board of directors two standing committees. The establishment of the initial authority board and standing committees is another milestone and the latest important development related to HISA, which became federal law in December 2020. Under the oversight of the Federal Trade Commission, the authority will implement consistent, transparent and enforceable rules across all state racing jurisdictions. These efforts will be divided into an Anti-Doping and Medication Control Program, which will be executed and enforced in partnership with the United States Anti-Doping Authority, and a Racetrack Safety Program. Additionally, the Authority will work with state regulators and horsemen's groups to ensure the most efficient and cost-effective approach to implementing the new programs. The nine-member **HISA AUTHORITY** consists of: **Steve Beshear**, Kentucky (independent director); **Leonard Coleman**, Florida (independent director); **Ellen McClain**, New York (independent director); **Charles Scheeler**, Maryland (independent director); **Adolpho Birch,** chair of the Anti-Doping and Medication Control standing committee, Tennessee (independent director); **Joseph De Francis**, Maryland (industry director); **Susan Stover,** chair of the Racetrack Safety standing committee, California (industry director); **Bill Thomason**, Kentucky (industry director); and **D.G. Van Clief**, Virginia (industry director). A seven-member **RACETRACK SAFETY STANDING COMMITTEE** consists of: **Stover**, chair (California, industry director); **Lisa Fortier,** New York (independent member); **Peter Hester**, Kentucky (independent member); **Paul Lunn,** North Carolina (independent member); **Carl Mattacola**, North Carolina (independent member); **Glen Kozak**, New York (industry member); and **John Velazquez**, New York (industry member). A seven-member **ANTI-DOPING AND MEDICATION CONTROL STANDING COMMITTEE** consists of: **Birch**, chair (Tennessee, independent director); **Jeff Novitzky,** Nevada (independent member); **Kathleen Stroia,** Florida (independent member); **Jerry Yon**, Florida (independent member); **Jeff Blea,** California (industry member); **Mary Scollay,** Kentucky (industry member); and **Scott Stanley**, Kentucky (industry member).

TIBOR SZLAVIK

Cupid filly out of Callipepla, bred in Virginia by Daybreak Stables, sells for $440,000 at OBS.

Sold: Six Mid-Atlantic-breds for six figures at the OBS Spring Sale of 2-year-olds April 21-23. Topping the regional-breds was a $440,000 Cupid—Callipepla filly bred in Virginia by Daybreak Stables. She worked a bullet :20.40 for a quarter and was purchased by Ben McElroy, agent for M.V. Magnier from the consignment of Q Bar J Thoroughbreds. She had been through the ring twice before at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic–a $4,500 RNA as a weanling in December 2019 and a $42,000 yearling last October. The top price for a Mid-Atlantic-sired 2-year-old was $375,000 for a Kobe's Back colt out of Miss Charades bred by Barak Farm in Maryland. John Fort made the purchase (read more in the *Maryland*

MILESTONES

Horse newsletter starting on page 53). The only West Virginia-bred offered also exceeded a quarter-million when D.J. Stable bid $300,000 for the Nyquist colt out of Honey Chile. Bred by James F. Miller, the colt initially sold as a yearling at Keeneland in Sepember for $85,000.

Named: As one of the dozen national awardees of the 2021 Mellon/ACLS Scholars and Society Fellowship program by the American Council of Learned Societies, the Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame and Museum, in partnership with Dr. Elisabeth Gabrielle Kuenzli, associate professor of history at the University of South Carolina. Scholars and Society Fellows conduct research projects while in residence at cultural, media, government, policy or community organizations. The awards enable collaborations between fellows and host institutions and the communities they serve. Dr. Kuenzli's project is "Jockeying Into Position: Race, Ethnicity, and the Rise of the Latino Jockey in the American South, XX-XXI Centuries." The Aiken Hall of Fame will receive a $10,000 grant that will be used to fund an upgrade in interactive equipment and software used for the current exhibit on the role of the Latino jockey and Latinos in a rural southern community as well as future exhibits.

Entered: Into a multi-year deal with SeatGeek to serve as its exclusive ticketing partner, Monmouth Park, becoming the first racetrack to join the ticket company's full stack platform. SeatGeek gives fans the opportunity to buy and sell tickets to sporting events, concerts and theater shows. Monmouth Park is the latest addition to a corporate catalog that includes NFL and NBA teams and Major League Soccer. "Monmouth Park is excited to have this long-term partnership with SeatGeek," said Bill Knauf, the track's vice president of business operations. "Their technology and mobile platform are an ideal fit for Monmouth Park moving forward, especially as we look to move into a more mobile-based space." Although admission and parking are free throughout the meet with the exception of July 17, Haskell Day, SeatGeek will immediately handle ticket requests for live racing days for box seats, parterre rentals, the renovated Dining Club, the Lady's Secret Café and the picnic buffet.

THE RACING BIZ

The Independent Voice for Mid-Atlantic Racing and Breeding

MD Racing Commission frustrated with Laurel track issues: Simmering frustration over the condition of the Laurel Park dirt track boiled over at the April Maryland Racing Commission meeting. Frank Vespe reports.

Charles Town horsemen–track not the cause of breakdowns: Charles Town Races was under fire for a spate of breakdowns, but trainers and jockeys at the track said it's not the racing strip itself that's to blame, reports Ted Black.

Reigh Count, Virginia's forgotten Kentucky Derby winner: Reigh Count is one of four Kentucky Derby winners bred in Virginia, and his legacy extends to the big day–even if he himself is mostly forgotten. Nick Hahn chronicles the story.

Trevor McCarthy off to California: Jockey Trevor McCarthy shifted his tack to Southern California in May, and Mike Valiante caught up with him for a Q & A.

Off the Pace: what racing should do yesterday: Valiante, with over 45 years experience in betting horses and marketing financial products, shares his own ideas in a three-part series on what racing must do to prepare for the future.

Backtracks–Market Wise, a long-distance star: Jennifer Kelly takes a look at 1940s champion Market Wise, the bargain star who got better in longer races.

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Fisher voted into racing's Hall of Fame

TOD MARKS

Trainer Jack Fisher will become the 22nd steeplechase horseman inducted into the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame this summer as part of the class of 2021 along with trainer Todd Pletcher and Triple Crown winner American Pharoah. The group will be enshrined along with the 2020 inductees Aug. 6, at the Fasig-Tipton sales pavilion in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., at 10:30 a.m. The ceremony will be broadcast live on the museum website with an announcement regarding public attendance at the ceremony to come.

Fisher, a Maryland resident and Pennsylvania native, joins trainers Jonathan Sheppard, Mikey Smithwick, Burley Cocks, Pete Bostwick, Janet Elliot and others on a list that also includes jockeys Joe Aitcheson, Paddy Smithwick, Dooley Adams and Jerry Fishback. The steeplechase inductees are chosen by the Hall of Fame's Steeplechase Review Committee, which meets every four years.

Fisher, 57, is the son of retired trainer and amateur steeplechase jockey Dr. John R.S. Fisher so grew up in racing. The younger Fisher won his first race as a trainer in 1988 at Middleburg, Va., with Call Louis and has been a consistently dominant force atop the National Steeplechase Association standings for the past 20 years. He topped all steeplechase trainers in wins for the first time in 2003 and has led the list an additional 12 times. In 2004, he led the earnings list for the first of eight times. Now based at Locust Hill Farm in Butler, Md., Fisher has ranked in the top five in NSA wins and earnings each of the past 20 years.

He is the only trainer in American steeplechase history to surpass $1 million in purse earnings in a year, something he has accomplished five times. He trained 2007 and 2008 Eclipse Award winner and Hall of Fame member Good Night Shirt, one of only three horses to earn $1 million in American steeplechase racing (along with Hall of Famers Lonesome Glory and McDynamo). The Maryland-bred Good Night Shirt won eight Grade 1 stakes, and twice set the single-season NSA earnings record. Fisher also trained Eclipse Award winners Scorpiancer (Ire) in 2017 and Moscato (GB) in 2020. Through May 14, Fisher has won 593 career steeplechase races and ranks second all-time in purse earnings with more than $17.8 million (behind only Sheppard). Current stable star Snap Decision opened 2021 with a victory in the Temple Gwathmey Hurdle Handicap, Fisher's sixth win in the historic race, and has won eight consecutive races. From 1994-99, Fisher won six consecutive Virginia Gold Cup timber stakes with Saluter–who holds the record for American timber victories (21) and earnings ($421,489). Fisher has won the Virginia Gold Cup 12 times as a trainer and nine times as a jockey–both records.

"I've always loved being around horses. It's been my life," Fisher said via museum press release. "I was terrible in school and didn't want to be there. I loved riding and I love training. I learned a lot from my father and from guys like Mikey Smithwick and Tommy Voss. They were examples of the work it takes to be successful and also how they built a good team. You can't do it alone."

In a conversation the day of the announcement, Fisher thought of the early parts of his career and the help along the way–crediting timber horse Call Louis (who won his first seven timber starts for Fisher in 1989 and 1990) and hurdler Woody Boy Would (who won nine races for Fisher in the early 1990s)–for helping push the training career.

"I'm going to say it was Call Louis and Woody Boy Would, those two got my career started and I think Mr. [Alex] Campbell and Mr. [Fitz] Dixon and some other owners of my dad's who gave me horses at the beginning were a big part of it too," Fisher said of early influential horses and people. "Once you start to get it rolling, people start to send you better horses. It requires a bit of luck."

Fisher finished second behind Sheppard in the NSA's pandemic-shortened 2020 season, but is off to a quick start in 2021 and doesn't see himself changing what he does much. He opened 2021 by winning the first two hurdle stakes of the season, and led all trainers in starts with 29 and purse earnings with $136,900.

"Not at all," Fisher replied when asked if the Hall of Fame honor changes his life. "I think people train horses, especially steeplechase horses, not for the money but for the love of the sport and the love of the horse. That's different than flat racing a little bit, because you can do it for the money. Training the horses is it for me."

CINDY DEUBLER

A Maryland-bred Hero–25th Anniversary

Cigar

Huge Attraction

Massachusetts Handicap

June 1, 1996 - Suffolk Downs

Cigar's return to the races after his Dubai trip turned into a lovefest. "With tracks all over the country doing their best to lure the reigning world champion [winner of 10 Grade 1 stakes and three races valued at $1 million or more], Cigar's connections chose the ungraded Mass 'Cap, worth a mere $400,000 to the first-place finisher," reported *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred.*

Going for his 15th straight win, the Bill Mott-trained Allan Paulson homebred had been there before. The previous year Suffolk Downs offered a bonus which resulted in a $650,000 payday. "But just as alluring [to his connections] was the warm reception the son of Palace Music received from fans at the recently-revived track near Boston."

In the announcer's booth for both runnings of the Mass 'Cap was young Marylander Larry Collmus. Having taken the Suffolk job in 1992, Collmus still feels the excitement of Cigar's return.

"It was unbelievable," Collmus said 25 years later. "I remember him coming into Boston–they gave him a police escort. It made the front page of the *Boston Herald*."

Years after that trip, Cigar's jockey Jerry Bailey and Collmus remain struck by the respect and admiration from people on the backside. "One of the coolest things that people don't know. . ." said Bailey. "Obviously a lot of fans came out to see him. But as we warmed up [for the race], there must have been about 200 people on the backside along the rail to just come out to watch the horse. He had the admiration and respect of the people who put the show on."

Collmus saw the same from a different vantage point: "The one thing I'll remember more than anything else was the lead up to the race–when he began the walk from the barn area to the paddock. I've never seen anything like it. I've called 11 Kentucky Derbys now, and I've never seen anything like this.

"He comes out of the barn area and from the distance you can hear applause–and this is like 25 minutes before the race. And the applause is coming from the backstretch workers. You could hear them clapping as he made his way onto the track at the top of the stretch. And as he gets closer and closer to the grandstand the decibel level goes up and up and up and up. By the time he got in front of the grandstand–20 minutes before the race–the building was shaking. People were cheering.

"I think it helps because cell phones weren't really around then–now these days people are taking pictures. Back then they were clapping and cheering. I'm up in the booth and at this point in my career I'm pretty young and I've called maybe a couple of decent races. I was overwhelmed–I had to sit down, put my head down and relax. I still had to call the race.

"That's the cool thing when a really big horse comes to a track that doesn't see it that often. That's why it was so special."

Cigar faced five outmatched rivals and carried 130 pounds, the most in his career and 16-21 above the others. The crowd was 22,169, the largest at the track in 30 years, and he was bet down to 1-10; there was no place or show betting.

"It's hard to get horses to run against a horse like Cigar," said Collmus as he described the race. "As they are heading down the backstretch, Jerry Bailey is just throttling him back. And when he let him go, just a little bit, he blew by everybody to the front.

"In the call, sometimes you plan things out, but it just sort of came out for me: 'There goes the legend.' And as he made that move and as I said that, the roar of the crowd tripled.

"He came back to a grandstand that the only one I can say may have been louder was when American Pharoah came back at Belmont after winning the Triple Crown."

Collmus has called two Triple Crown winners, but the 1996 Mass 'Cap holds its own: "It was great to be a part of that experience. At that stage of my career it was overwhelming."

North America's all-time leading money earner, Cigar's earnings passed $8 million with the win. A long way from when Collmus first called the legend.

"I didn't even realize I had called Cigar in a race before the Mass 'Cap," he admitted. Collmus was the track announcer at Bay Meadows when Cigar was in California with trainer Alex Hassinger. The race was the Ascot Handicap. "He wasn't a big deal–some grass horse who was third. . ."

– Cindy Deubler

Top Striker

MAGGIE KIMMITT

Top Striker poses with Sue Sensor, Melissa Rice and Arch Kingsley.

On a mid-April Saturday in Camden, S.C., Arch Kingsley, Sue Sensor and Melissa Rice gathered at The Camden Hunt stables. Spring was in resplendent bloom, and so was Top Striker, the reason for the assembly.

Kingsley trained the son of Van Nistelrooy and the Cozzene mare Two's Cozy, bred in Maryland by Richard Golden's Sycamore Hall Farm, for Sensor and her husband George. Rice, huntsman for Camden and now his regular pilot, led the gelding out for photos. Top Striker immediately posed, foot-perfect, and glanced at the camera.

"Oh—you're not quite ready?" his expression said. "No worries, I'll wait."

His coat is brilliant, burnished mahogany, gleaming from his chiseled head to his thick, tangle-free tail. His chest is broad, his hindquarters powerful. If Ferrari made tanks, they would look like Top Striker.

Back in the barn, he stood with his head over the stall door, part of the conversation. Sue Sensor stroked his nose as she explained crossing paths with a steeplechase prospect.

Champion steeplechase jockey Willie McCarthy, then a Camden resident, often relocated to the Maryland/Pennsylvania area during jump season and galloped for Michael Matz. McCarthy was the regular exercise rider for Top Striker in 2012 when the 3-year-old first arrived at Fair Hill from the barn of trainer Rodney Jenkins.

"I fell in love with him instantly," McCarthy said. "A beautiful looking horse with a wonderful athletic attitude. Top Striker ticked all the boxes for me. I knew he had what it takes to be a top contender over hurdles."

Not that Top Striker was some slow flat horse. He won his debut as a 3-year-old on the turf at Colonial Downs, and backed up that win with an allowance score at Delaware Park (both for Jenkins) in 2012. For Matz, Top Striker was beaten less than 3 lengths in two allowance races at Keeneland that fall.

McCarthy recalled his first breeze. Dropping to the rail, the horse lowered himself and effortlessly slid into another gear. McCarthy sat quietly and let him roll, believing he had just nailed the half-mile maintenance work in 48 seconds.

"We jogged briskly back to Michael, who had a smile on his face. 'That was very nice Willie, but a little quick, don't you think? 46 and 4,' he said. Right then I told myself 'I'd like to ride him in a race someday, somehow.'"

Top Striker won a $30,000 claimer at Gulfstream Park in January 2013, but was out of conditions and not headed up anybody's ladder. McCarthy, then riding for Kingsley, called the Sensors. They were interested.

Chapter Two: The Steeplechase Years.

When Top Striker, all 15.3 of him, arrived at Kingsley's Camden farm, McCarthy received a message from Sue Sensor.

"He's gorgeous, but are you sure he's big enough?"

Kingsley was initially apprehensive about Top Striker's pedigree.

"I wasn't sure about Van Nistelrooy," he said. "I loved the Cozzene mare—they are sound, solid, have stamina. I wasn't sure about that Storm Cat on top, though. But Van Nistelrooy turned out to be a great jump sire in Europe, so we just kinda lucked into that one."

A little research—and time—would link Top Striker to a deep family going back two generations to Sycamore Hall's David Wade buying Sunny Sparkler for $5,500 in 1992. She produced four winners including stakes winners Smart Sunny and Sparkling Number. The latter produced Grade 1 winner Illuminant, stakes winner Elevated Vision and Top Striker's dam Two's Cozy (also the dam of stakes winners Clever Mind and Follow the Dog).

McCarthy reassured Kingsley and Sensor. "He's all engine," he said. "I promise."

Top Striker learned his lessons in two defeats, then won a maiden hurdle late in 2013 and opened the next season with a hometown win in the Carolina Cup novice stakes.

"That was a very special day for me, and one I will never forget," said McCarthy. "I screamed, 'We made it, my boy!' with tears in my eyes as we crossed the wire."

As Kingsley emphasized, Top Striker was no overnight sensation. After winning another novice stakes at Callaway Gardens in 2014, he finished fourth back

home in Camden in the Colonial Cup-G1 behind Eclipse Award winners Divine Fortune and Demonstrative.

Like plenty of others before him, Top Striker navigated some soundness issues and the veterinarians cautioned Kingsley about plotting a comeback.

"Tell that to a good horse, and they're like 'I will if I want to,'" Kingsley said.

Top Striker sat out 2015, returning to the races at Middleburg with a fourth in the Temple Gwathmey-G3 in April 2016.

"The Sensors gave me the time I needed to develop him," Kingsley said. "If you have supportive owners who are not pushing the timeline and are letting you do right by the horse, it's about three-quarters that and one-quarter good luck. This horse's success was due to their blessing."

Top Striker repaid his team with a busy and successful season in 2016. He hit the board at Great Meadow, Fair Hill, and Saratoga (twice) before returning to Great Meadow in October to win the Zeke Ferguson Memorial-G2. The best was still to come.

A month later on a postcard-perfect afternoon at Camden's Springdale Race Course, Top Striker faced eight rivals in the Colonial Cup-G1. Irv Naylor's stable star, Rawnaq (Ire), was heavily favored.

"I had thought it would be a one-horse race that day," Kingsley said.

It was, but the one horse was his. Top Striker sat just off Rawnaq throughout before overtaking him at the last fence and powering to a 10½-length win. The hometown crowd lost its collective mind.

"When he jumped that last fence, I cried," Sensor said. "And then it was like the afterburners came on with the crowd. He had been Camden's horse for so long."

"I'm still high on that Colonial Cup," Kingsley said. "It was my first Grade 1 win as a trainer, so I'll never forget that. And to do it here in Camden with the Sensors, that was as good as it gets."

Named Maryland-bred champion steeplechaser in 2014 and 2016, Top Striker made just two more starts before retiring in April 2017.

"He won a nice allowance at Tryon [on the flat], but he was beginning to unravel," Kingsley said.

Top Striker relocated from Kingsley's farm to the Sensors' place on the other side of Camden, taking with him a record of 27-9-3-4 and $341,954 earned.

"He was turned out, lived outside and he loved it," Sensor said. "And he was just a gentleman, you could do anything you wanted with him. He loved the dogs—our dogs are retired foxhounds. Then we needed another horse here at the hunt."

Camden's master of foxhounds, Sensor sent Top Striker to Rice, who happily admits that she is intentionally stingy with the gelding. His endearing—and somewhat unusual—affection for the hounds also sets him apart. After decades of making horses for the hunt staff, she made Top Striker her gold standard.

"He is a phenomenal jumper, and for a steeplechase horse he is incredibly careful and still can make up time in the air," she said. "He was strong at the track, and Arch trained him a lot in the country around here. So the first few hunts he would be like, 'We've galloped 2 miles now, Melissa. Don't we pull up?' And for that whole 2 miles, he's pulling me like a racehorse. But in the hunt field, he is bottomless. I baby him, and Sue enables me to do that."

Renewal

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TOD MARKS

Horses weren't the only runners over MD timber

No single horse ran in the My Lady's Manor, the Grand National and the Maryland Hunt Cup timber stakes this spring. It used to be a thing. The old-timers say, "Back in the day, horses were tougher, men were stronger, fences were higher and everybody ran in the Manor, the Grand National and the Hunt Cup."

It's just the way it was. Not anymore. No horse ran in all three classics in 2021, but one person did. This one. That's right, I covered all 10¼ miles (approximately, more on that later) of the Manor, Grand National and Hunt Cup courses. For the record, I'm much slower than the horses. Combined, the winners needed 20 minutes and 34 seconds. I managed it in 1:36.21 (that's an hour, 36 minutes, 21 seconds for the decimally challenged).

But I'll take it. I enjoy running, especially during the lockdowns and uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic. I love the chance to be in a wide-open space, unmasked, doing something active, where nobody can call you, text you, email you, tweet at you or tag you in a photo. And you'd be hard-pressed to find three better places to run.

My Lady's Manor. I tossed my running stuff in the car thinking I could change after the races and stop on the way home for some miles. Gunpowder Park and NCR Trail are great spots. I parked at the barn, walked to the course in my coat and tie, saw Mystic Strike and Schoodic fall on the flat, and watched Vintage Vinnie saunter off with the Manor. What price for the Hunt Cup?

I mentioned running the course to race chair Ross Pearce, who laughed and said "Sure, I won't be here to see it." Back at my car after the races, I changed clothes and shoes, took a swig of water, said hello to Steve and Nancy Dance (who laughed) and headed out. I ran the first part backward—fences six, three, two and one to the start. The ground was pretty soft down there, there's a creek in the woods and the sixth is not small.

From the start, I headed uphill and picked up the course between the eighth and ninth. I saw the spot of Mystic Strike's wipeout, went through the chute past the tailgaters, around the right-handed turn and back across my path toward Jarrettsville Pike. Schoodic's wipeout left a skid mark, as well. He was too fast for that turn. I was not. I scrambled over the fence in the stretch, crossed the finish line and kept going back to the car. Total distance: 3.05 miles in 25:41. Biggest impression: the climb. My watch said 209 feet, but it felt like more. You're way down in a valley at the start and high on a ridge at the finish. If he wasn't before, your horse will be fit after the Manor.

Grand National. Post time is 3 p.m., which pushes a post-race run closer to dinner. I covered three races, interviewed McLane Hendriks (who spoke of manifest destiny) about Le Chevalier and headed for the car. I ran from the parking lot across the meadow to where the Western Run Plate starts and followed the fences. Hoofprints are not fun to run on. This was the most peaceful run of the three—green grass, redbud trees, a pond, all the signs of spring. I crossed a driveway, went past the trailers, heard from a friend about getting light enough to ride (negative) and made the turn way off to the east. You're a long way from the finish line at the 12th fence. Think the horses know? I climbed over the 16th, and made a right turn up the hill that overlooks the stretch, continued across another driveway and around the turn toward the fifth fence of the Grand National.

I ducked a low tree branch and finished where I started—sort of. In the interview, Hendriks told me he thought the Grand National—listed at 3¼ miles—felt short. I have no idea, and I didn't take the official course, but I had to extend my trip to get to 3.12. The final time was 26:32.

Maryland Hunt Cup. You can't run two of the Maryland timber courses and skip the most famous. My oldest son Ryan joined me and we did it right—warm-up jog to the start, turn and go—with the encouragement of a few tailgaters. The first fence (of 22) is uphill. It was also partially destroyed. Riding a horse who smashes the first in the Hunt Cup can't be a good feeling. We made sure to climb or step (thanks to a few broken posts) over every fence. The third asks a question. The sixth makes a point. The 13th delivers a test. The 16th is a final exam, only the course has another quarter to go. I thought of Jay Trump, Mountain Dew, Landing Party, Trouble Maker and all the others.

The long jaunts along the woods sapped our energy. How many Hunt Cups were won and lost over the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th? After the 20th, we waited for traffic to clear, crossed the road and chugged back to the finish. The 21st seems like a ridiculous thing—a minor board fence leaning out over a small brook—but also plays a role. It's different, and difficult in its own way. Plenty of Hunt Cup hopes have been dashed here. We stepped to the top board, kicked over the brook and headed to the last. I thought of 20-year-old Dan Nevin, who'd traveled this route with Vintage Vinnie an hour earlier with the Hunt Cup all but won. Imagine.

We scaled the last fence, ran down the stretch and passed the finish line. Officially, it was 3.9 miles (the race is 4) but there are plenty of places to gain or lose ground. I needed 34:08 to complete the course.

See you out there next year. ✹

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MARYLAND HUNT CUP

Like Fine Wine

Vintage Vinnie runs away with record-setting score

By Joe Clancy. Photographs by Douglas Lees

Two weeks before the most important timber race in the world, while still enjoying the My Lady's Manor victory by his horse Vintage Vinnie (Ire), trainer Joe Davies contemplated the next step.

"He's nominated to the big dance . . ." Davies said, stopping his trek back to the barn in mid-step to consider his next few words about the Maryland Hunt Cup. "We don't think he gets the 4 miles. We're going to wait and see. I don't see him doing it. I just don't think he's a 4-mile horse. I think he'd go really well for 3 miles and then . . ."

Well, nothing.

Two weeks after winning the 110th Manor, Armata Stable's Vintage Vinnie made history in the 124th running of the Hunt Cup in Glyndon April 24—setting the course record of 8:22⅗, winning by more than three football fields, giving Davies his fifth consecutive win in the race and becoming the first horse to win the Manor and the Hunt Cup in the same year since 1988. The 12-year-old went to the front at once for Irish jockey Dan Nevin and was never threatened.

A smiling Dan Nevin canters home with Vintage Vinnie by 112½ lengths. Betty Fenwick presents the traditional tankard and new Maryland Hunt Cup challenge trophy to Perry Bolton and Ben Griswold IV as trainer Joe Davies looks on. The 124th Hunt Cup was run in honor of Betty's husband and former secretary of the race, Charles "Cuppy" Fenwick Sr.

Nobody got close. The official margin of victory was 112½ lengths, confirmed by a high-speed digital photo finish camera (and beyond the Equibase data system's two-digit limit), over Preseli Rock (Ire) with Rocket Star Red third. Le Chevalier, the Grand National winner a week earlier and arguably the Hunt Cup favorite in a year where no previous winners made the field, lost jockey McLane Hendriks at the 20th of 22 fences while a clear yet distant second.

Owners Perry Bolton (90) and Ben Griswold IV (80), whose friendship traces to Griswold's father's 1939 hiring of Bolton's future wife's father Charles Garland to run Baltimore's Alex Brown investment firm, were joyous–and flabbergasted.

"How about that, Ben?" Bolton asked with a grin.

Griswold spoke for everybody, "I never thought I'd see something like that."

Bolton has attended Hunt Cups since he was a teen. His great uncle, George Brown Jr., saw the first–in 1894–and rode in 14 runnings. He won in 1900 and again in 1916. Brown was later a racetrack steward, and instilled a love of the sport in his nephew. Bolton called never riding in a Hunt Cup "one of my great regrets," but foxhunted until age 85 and annually presents the George Brown Bowl to the top timber horse in Maryland. This year, the bowl stays home.

Like Bolton, Griswold has attended Hunt Cups for most of his life. His father rode in five. Ben went one better. Brother Jay made 16 trips to the post. They went 0-for-27.

Ben IV and Bolton teamed up to form Armata in the early 1990s and found Hunt Cup success with Hunt Cup stalwart Welter Weight. He won in 1999, after finishing second (once by a head) the two previous years, and followed up with two more runner-up efforts in 2000 and 2001. With a little more luck, he'd have won three or so. A Hunt Cup runner is the stable's stated goal and they've been represented by 14 runners since Welter Weight's win.

Another winner, a year after the race was canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic, was special.

"Ben and I are always aiming at that race, it's always the end goal," said Bolton. "We've had a great time and I'll never forget it. There is a lot of history in my family with the Hunt Cup and all the different people through the years. This tops everything."

For Davies, the win was historic as well. Like his owners, he's had a long relationship with the Hunt Cup, its 22 fences, its 4 miles, its twists and turns, its lore. He won it three times as a jockey, and built a training business with his wife Blythe Miller Davies (also a Hunt Cup-winning jockey) specializing in Hunt Cup horses. They found one of the race's best in Senior Senator, who won in 2016, 2018 and 2019. When he fell in 2017, the team won the race anyway–with surprise upsetter Derwins Prospector. Senior Senator was meant to try to become the Hunt Cup's first four-time winner in 2020, until the pandemic and until he died of colic.

"I never thought I'd see the top side of that stand again when we lost Senior Senator unless I snuck up there if my son won it or if they let me present a trophy

ROBERT KELLER PHOTO

Opposite page: Top, Vintage Vinnie jumps the first fence alone, something he got used to as he led at every step. Bottom, Grand National winner Le Chevalier (McLane Hendriks) takes the 13th and looked to be on his way to finishing second before ducking out at the 20th. This page, clockwise from top: Royal Ruse (3, Chris Gracie) and Jeffery G (6, Forrest Kelly) lead Sideling Hill (Eric Poretz) over the 13th. Rocket Red Star (Brett Owings) flies the 13th en route to finishing third. Making his sixth Hunt Cup start, Joshua G (Skylar McKenna) shows his form over the 13th. Bruton Street-US horses Drift Society (left, Connor Hankin) and Preseli Rock (Hadden Frost) head to the start.

The Hunt Cup field gallops into the second fence, with Vintage Vinnie (far left) already in command.

someday," said Davies. "I had very little hope of winning the race again, not after having a horse like Senior Senator."

A Race, While It Lasted

From an original group of 10 entries, nine went to the post as Hooded was a late scratch. A front-runner with few peers, Vintage Vinnie was always going to make the running and he bounced clear by 10 lengths going to the first fence. Nevin buried his hands at his horse's withers and let the horse stride on. The landing was a little steep, that happens to keyed-up horses, but Le Chevalier nearly fell and slid back to last. Vintage Vinnie flew the second, surged through the mulch across Tufton Avenue and scaled the 4-foot-9 third fence. Twenty-five lengths in front, at least, by this point he added to the advantage through the first mile while the others bunched together in a race of their own behind him. Vintage Vinnie led by 10 seconds over the fifth fence. By the eighth, the lead was 17 seconds. Video analysis proved to be nearly impossible beyond that point.

At the 12th, he looked completely under control–pricking his ears to size up the fence and find his takeoff spot–landing with momentum. He jumped the 13th fence, all 4-foot-9 of it, while the others left the ground at the 12th.

He'd built an insurmountable lead, that was clear. Could he see out the race's final mile-and-a-half? And could he handle the final nine fences? Like always in the Hunt Cup, the course would pass judgment–even in a year with more broken posts and splintered rails than usual.

After taking out a rail at the 14th, Vintage Vinnie nearly threw it all away at the 16th. Uphill, 4-foot-10 and nearly 3 miles into the race, the fence asks a difficult question. The leader clouted it, a broken post dropping out the top rail in three panels. Tail up, nose down, front legs supporting the whole lot, Vintage Vinnie slowed, steadied himself and galloped on. Nevin barely moved in the saddle, even if his right hand came off the reins for a second.

"There was one scary moment, where he knuckled a little bit and almost went down on his head but the horse is so clever," Nevin said. "Five or six from home is it? He is very quick on his feet and athletic. It's unreal, he got me out of a hole there."

Somewhere Davies cringed.

"He made one serious mistake, but he did it with authority, at the 16th," Davies said. "If you have momentum, and stay balanced, you can do that."

Vintage Vinnie put the near-disaster behind him, and cleared the 17th as the others steadied up to the now-shortened 16th. Though he nearly flattened 17, Le Chevalier pulled well clear of the rest to take second before losing Hendriks with a run-out at the 20th. Safely on the landing side of 21 by this point, Nevin looked over his shoulder for competition and saw none. Vintage Vinnie popped the last and cantered home.

"I couldn't believe it, it was a shock," Davies said. "After the 19th I started to get hopeful. Before that I wasn't very hopeful. I just thought his jumping was going to catch up to him. I did not have a great deal of faith. I knew he had done a lot of jumping and I hoped that he was wise enough to steady himself, but I just didn't think he'd be able to keep steadying himself for 4 miles and over all those fences. Could he keep doing it?"

He could.

Nevin, 20, came to the United States with no notion of the Hunt Cup. He'd seen videos, heard a story or two. A point-to-point regular who spent two years riding out for top Irish trainer Willie Mullins, learning as much as possible, Nevin had never seen a timber race much less ridden in one.

"The jump is different, these fences you'd more so show jump them," he said. "They're so upright. Back in Ireland the point-to-point fences are slanted and you can brush through the top of them."

Prepped by Joe and Blythe Davies to be as quiet as possible, no matter what, and to let Vintage Vinnie do the work, Nevin listened—even when a mid-week schooling session went haywire with a refusal, a skid, a crow-hop in the hunter-trial field and finally a few fences Davies called satisfactory if unspectacular.

Davies provided fairly simple instructions during the week.

"You just sit there, be a passenger, he'll do all the work," the trainer told his jockey.

In the paddock a few minutes before the 4 p.m. post time, Blythe Davies was more emphatic.

"Dan, you do not have a choice here," she said. "Put your hands down, leave him alone."

Leaving the paddock with his feet out of the stirrups as Vintage Vinnie hopped and dipped into a warm-up gallop, Nevin stuck to the plan.

"I jumped off, left him alone and he did everything," said the jockey. "I just sat there and enjoyed the trip around. Even going to the fourth-last I had a look behind me and I was so far clear I knew I had gotten enough breathers into him and he had saved enough energy that he had a fair chance. It would take a fair horse to stay at that pace for 4 miles, but he did it. I was able to take him back and get a couple breathers into him. He listened to me when he needed to."

Preseli Rock and jockey Hadden Frost outran Rocket Star Red (Brett Owings) by a half-length to take second with Royal Ruse (Chris Gracie) fourth. Eight finished. There were no falls, though Vintage Vinnie was pulled up and looking for a sip of water by the time the others crossed the line.

The time bested the 8:25⅗ of 2002 winner Young Dubliner (Ire) by three seconds. Firm turf contributed to the winning time, but they're the only two horses to break 8:30 around the course, unchanged since 1922.

A Hunt Cup Winner's Path

Joe and Blythe Davies claimed Senior Senator for $7,500 at Penn National, and changed Hunt Cup history by turning a rogue into a history-maker. Nobody called Vintage Vinnie the heir apparent, but he joined the squad in 2017 as a Hunt Cup prospect if for no other reason than his owner and trainer.

He'd won three races over chase fences in England, jumped around the Grand National brush course at Aintree (not in the Grand National itself, but in quality races) while earning just shy of £60,000 for trainer Rebecca Curtis. With the Davieses on the lookout for a horse for Armata, Goffs horses-in-training sale at Doncaster seemed like a logical place to look.

"We were looking for horses in the sale and we watched a race that a horse in the sale ran in and we thought we liked another horse in the race, that wasn't in the sale," said Davies. "That was Vintage Vinnie. We called up to see if we could buy him and they said he was sort of getting near the end of his conditions and sure, we could buy him."

A well-beaten 13th (of 22) in the 2017 Galway Plate Steeplechase in his final start for Curtis, Vintage Vinnie made his timber debut the following spring. He won two point-to-point starts, then finished second in the maiden at My Lady's Manor. He did the same thing the next year, winning twice early and placing second in the allowance timber at the Grand National—all the while showcasing a bold, front-running style and some harrowing days at home.

"That's a difficult horse," Davies said after this year's Manor win. "We've almost given up on him a couple of times. He is an absolute bear to train. He's more difficult on a daily basis than Senior Senator because when you get on him, he just runs off as fast as he can go every day."

A tendon issue, the pandemic and some new thinking changed the plan last year. Vintage Vinnie began with a point-to-point flat prep in October, then won an apprentice-jockey timber at Great Meadow in October before finishing third at the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup. This spring, the mission was the same—a flat prep at Green Spring Valley Point-to-Point knocked off the rust and Vintage Vinnie won the Manor by building an early lead and getting a break when Schoodic slipped and fell on the final turn. Davies said his horse was only three-quarters fit going in. The trainer quietly aimed for the Hunt Cup two weeks later, even if it seemed like a lofty goal.

"It was always the plan to not run in the Grand National," the trainer said. "He's so hard on himself in his races and in his training that we just thought fewer races were better."

Though deep history dives show horses running in all three Maryland timber races—the Manor, Grand National and Hunt Cup—in successive weeks, the more-recent trend is to skip the Manor and run on back-to-back Saturdays. Senior Senator took that route, so did Derwins Prospector, Raven's Choice and Guts For Garters (Ire). You have to go back to 2013 to find a Hunt Cup winner who did not race a week earlier at the Grand National.

"I don't like to run a horse in the Hunt Cup that hasn't run around the Grand National course at some point," said Davies. "The bigger fences are taller, it just asks questions they need to answer. He'd run around there (in 2019) so we were OK there."

Vintage Vinnie won the Manor, dragged his people around the fields at the farm in Monkton, Md., for two weeks and went to the Hunt Cup.

"People asked if we were going to wait for the Virginia Gold Cup, but we said no mostly because we couldn't keep riding him every day for another month-and-a-half," said Davies, who trades exercise-rider duties with his son Teddy and assistant Ashton Williams. "We can't school him at home, we can't jump him over logs, anything. We literally jog him down the driveway, we have an open gate, he runs as fast as he can for a mile-and-a-quarter, then he pulls himself up and we jump off and lead him home."

Somehow, that strategy produced another Hunt Cup winner from Team Davies. No trainer had won the race in four consecutive years, and Davies just made it five. The record, shared by Janon Fisher Jr. and Charlie Fenwick, is six. There's no secret, Davies said, just a mix of horses, horsemanship, luck and some focus.

"The only difference for us is that other trainers have the pressure to go other places . . . and we don't," he said. "We were clear in our vision, with Senior Senator, with this horse and with the others we've run in the race. If you're really focused on things and you're a little disciplined, it doesn't mean winning has to happen, but you can improve your odds." ✹

MARYLAND HUNT CUP
Glyndon, Md., April 24

4 miles over timber, 5 & up, amateur riders. $60,000. Time: 8:22.60 (new course record). Margin: 112½.

1-Armata Stable's VINTAGE VINNIE (Ire) (b.g., 12, Vinnie Roe—Bobby's Jet, by Bob's Return; bred by Carmel Hennessy in Ireland); trainer Joe Davies; rider Dan Nevin.

FUELED BY The Mill

2-Bruton Street-US's Preseli Rock (Ire); Jack Fisher; Hadden Frost.

FUELED BY The Mill

3-Lucy A. Goelet's Rocket Star Red; Mark Beecher; Brett Owings.

FUELED BY The Mill

Also ran: Royal Ruse, Jeffery G., Sideling Hill, Drift Society (Ire), Joshua G., Le Chevalier (lost rider).

GRAND NATIONAL

Knight Rider

Le Chevalier, Hendriks connect for key timber stakes triumph

By Joe Clancy. Photographs by Douglas Lees

For more than 2½ miles of the Grand National timber stakes, McLane Hendriks kept telling Le Chevalier the same thing.

"Relax . . . Relax, bud."

The 12-year-old gray listened—mostly—putting on a jumping/galloping clinic before making off with the $30,000 timber stakes in a 6-length romp at Butler, Md., April 17. Royal Ruse finished second, a dozen lengths ahead of Hanno as Le Chevalier earned a start in the Maryland Hunt Cup the following week for owner Michael Smith and trainer Julie Gomena. A former event rider who won the Rolex Kentucky three-day in 1994, Gomena used some of that experience in the long, slow evolution of Le Chevalier from a failed flat horse to a failed hurdler to a now four-time winner over timber.

"He's a totally different horse than he used to be," said Gomena while cooling out her charge (she also drove the truck and trailer, and braided Le Chevalier's mane). "He doesn't have to run in a standing martingale anymore. Yes, he's still tough but the years have helped. We can tuck in behind galloping now, and have loops in the reins. He knows when there's something in front of him that he just stays there. He wasn't like that at first, for a long time."

No, he wasn't. A $35,000 Keeneland September (2010) yearling, Le Chevalier lost his first five flat starts before winning for a $7,500 claiming price for trainer Tom Proctor at Ellis Park in 2012. He lost four more and was purchased by Kentucky horseman Bill Wofford as a steeplechase prospect. The son of Broken Vow fell in two of his three hurdle starts before moving on to trainer Neil Morris and emerging as a timber horse at My Lady's Manor in 2015. With Gomena a year later, he won a maiden timber at the Manor by 9 lengths. He won a stakes that fall, standing martingale and all, and added another stakes victory in 2018 after starting just once in 2017. All the while, Gomena kept working on the horse's jumping and control and thinking—just maybe—about the Maryland Hunt Cup. He finished second in four timber stakes in 2019, including solid runs in the Virginia Gold Cup and Genesee Valley Hunt Cup.

"He was pretty careless with his jumping early on, halfway crazy and careless," said Gomena. "I never race school him. I do ring work though, even if he's not real comfortable in the ring. It used to be that he would just as soon run through one than jump over. It didn't matter to him."

Also Le Chevalier's biggest fan, Gomena kept tinkering—gymnastics in the ring, miles of galloping, teachable moments on the gallops and more.

"He's a lovely horse," Gomena said. "He would be a superb event horse, but you couldn't for the life of you jump a show-jumping course with him. He's a cool, tough horse."

Maryland was a goal for 2020, until the coronavirus pandemic canceled the spring timber classics, so Gomena penciled in 2021.

Le Chevalier went to Warrenton Point-to-Point March 13 and finished fifth on the flat, for fitness and to help Hendriks get acquainted. At Cheshire Point-to-Point two weeks later, Le Chevalier won the open timber—pulling Hendriks at what felt like every step.

"Wow, this is some horse," Hendriks told himself at some point, then just enjoyed the ride and thought about two more spring stops. The first came at Butler, for the Grand National. The key Hunt Cup prep for decades, the 3¼-mile race presents a mix of jumping, speed and stamina a week before its 4-mile cousin over even larger timber fences. A Virginian by way of Idaho and Oregon, Gomena talked things over with two-time Hunt Cup-winning trainer Richard Valentine and aimed for the Grand National.

"I don't know much about Maryland timber things, this is all new to me," Gomena said. "I've never been on the Maryland Hunt Cup trail and this back-to-

GRAND NATIONAL
Butler, Md., April 17

Grand National, 3¼ miles over timber, 5 & up, amateur jockeys. $30,000. Time: 6:11.20. Margin: 6. 1-Michael A. Smith's LE CHEVALIER (gr./ro.g., 12, Broken Vow—Orellana, by With Approval; bred by Haras Du Mezeray S.A. in Kentucky); trainer Julie Gomena; jockey McLane Hendriks. 2-Charles C. Fenwick Jr.'s Royal Ruse; Sanna Neilson; Skylar McKenna. 3-Mrs. S.K. Johnston Jr.'s Hanno; Jack Fisher; Hadden Frost. Also ran: Stand Down (Ire), Jeffery G., Hill Tie, Grand Manan (fell), Class Indian (fell), Mystic Strike (pulled up).

Benjamin H. Murray Memorial, 3¼ miles over timber for NW of 2 races over timber, 5 & up, amateur jockeys. $15,000. Time: 6:26.60. Margin: 2¾. 1-Nancy A. Reed's AWESOME ADRIAN (dk.b./br.g., 8, Great Notion—River Kwai, by Valley Crossing; bred by Nancy Jane Austin Reed in Maryland); trainer Katherine Neilson; jockey Eddie Keating. 2-Lucy A. Goelet's Rocket Star Red; Mark Beecher; Brett Owings. 3-Upland Partners' Shootist; Todd McKenna; Eric Poretz. Also ran: Hooded, Joshua G.

Western Run Plate, 3 miles over timber, 5 & up, amateur/apprentice jockeys. $10,000. Time: 6:28.60. Margin: 4¼. 1-Riverdee Stable's INCLUDE IT (dk.b./br.g., 6, Include—Pissarro, by Empire Maker; bred by Fitzhugh LLC in Maryland); trainer Todd Wyatt; jockey Eddie Keating. 2-Jeffrey S. Amling's My Afleet; Mark Beecher; Brett Owings. 3-Wendy Hendriks' Officer Sydney (Ire); Ricky Hendriks; McLane Hendriks. Also ran: As You Like It, You're No Better (GB), Aquies, Katnap (Fr), Fletched.

Le Chevalier (4) bides time in mid-pack early in the Grand National timber stakes with Hill Tie (Teddy Davies) and Jeffery G (Forrest Kelly) just behind. Trainer Julie Gomena and jockey McLane Hendriks raise the Grand National Cup as race sponsor Karen Bisbee (Hubble Bisbee Group) looks on.

Include It (left) leads My Afleet (Brett Owings) over the last in the Western Run Plate timber for apprentice jockeys to complete a double for jockey Eddie Keating and a Maryland-bred sweep of the undercard. Opposite page, Awesome Adrian shows perfect form in the Benjamin H. Murray Memorial.

back weekends I think is crazy but I talked to a zillion people and they all say this is what you do. Richard was really good about it and said this is the thing you have to do. He's never jumped around a course like this. You've got to see if they're ready."

Le Chevalier was ready for the Grand National, allowing others to head to the front at the start and tucking away on the inside. Grand Manan led the nine-horse field over the first, where Mystic Strike dropped out when jockey Chris Gracie's right stirrup leather broke.

Last approaching the second fence, Le Chevalier passed two horses in the air and was fifth over the third. He flew the fifth, again gaining lengths, but stayed on hold. Class Indian fell at the eighth, leaving Grand Manan on an even longer lead. Royal Ruse followed with Hanno and Le Chevalier just behind.

Back to the inside for a right-handed bend after the 10th fence, Le Chevalier advanced to third. He sailed the 12th, did it again at the 13th and faced up the race's final five fences and long straightaway. He outjumped Royal Ruse at the 14th to take second–leaned into the bit some more and took the lead for good when Grand Manan fell at the 16th. Le Chevalier saw a long stride at the last, jumped it like a Grade 1 hurdler and stayed in command to the line.

"He was taking me the whole race, the whole race," said Hendriks. "You obviously want them to be that way for as long as you can. You want to still be telling your horse to relax going into the second-last, right?"

Definitely. The win connected some dots for Hendriks, the son of jump jockey turned trainer Ricky Hendriks and Maryland flat/jump trainer Lizzie Merryman. Louis Merryman, great-grandfather to McLane Hendriks, won the Grand National aboard Aimwell in 1929.

"I've been coming to this race since I was little, little, little and I've dreamed of winning it," said Hendriks. "That was my first win in a sanctioned Maryland timber race so that was special too. Even at the start, before they dropped the flag I was like, 'This is the year I win the Grand National on Le Chevalier.' It's funny how you can manifest your own destiny like that a little bit. It felt like everything was just lining up and going our way today."

Hendriks called the Grand National "a rider's course" and emphasized how important jumping ability is.

"I was just really, really focused on keeping his hind end underneath him, and loaded up, because he will try to hurdle them," the 29-year-old jockey said. "You've got to squeeze him up and make him use his hind end, but he can leave from anywhere."

Hendriks studied retired jockey Mark Beecher's rides for some insight on how to approach the Grand National.

"There's not a lot of ground to be made up, so if you're on a bad jumper and you're losing ground and having to chase to maintain that position the whole time it's a tough course to run around," Hendriks said. "No matter what Mark was on he would get a good start and just try to sit in the catbird seat–third, fourth, wherever. He'd have someone in front of him, but sort of dictate the pace a little bit even if he wasn't in front. You need to be in the race here. The way Le Chavalier was jumping let us do that."

A week after the Grand National, Le Chevalier and Hendriks parted company at the 20th fence of the Maryland Hunt Cup–while second behind runaway winner Vintage Vinnie (Ire) and well clear of the others. That result ended the Hunt Cup hopes, but did little to diminish Le

Chevalier's achievement in the Grand National.

"I'm so proud of him," Gomena said. "He's like a dream horse, a once-in-a-life-time dream horse."

Keating sweeps undercard

After winning one at My Lady's Manor April 10, jockey Eddie Keating enjoyed a banner day with a double at the Grand National. Nancy Reed's homebred Awesome Adrian got it started with a professional effort in the Benjamin H. Murray allowance timber. The 8-year-old Maryland-bred bided his time at the back of the compact, five-horse field before taking over at the 16th of 17 fences. The son of Great Notion cruised into that fence, outjumped Rocket Star Red and Hooded and kicked clear to win by 2¾ lengths. Rocket Star Red held second with Shootist third.

Trained by Kathy Neilson, the winner started over hurdles as a 3-year-old in 2016 before going to the flat and winning twice in 2017 (at Penn National and Laurel Park) and switching to timber in 2018. He picked up a maiden win in 2019 and opened 2021 with a second at Cheshire.

"I was expecting that," Keating said of the win. "I was on him at Willowdale when he won his maiden, he jumped brilliant around there. I've always liked that horse from the first day I sat on him, I've always thought he was a nice horse, he settled lovely, he jumped lovely. He'll definitely jump a bigger fence, he can go down that route. He definitely impressed me."

Awesome Adrian is one of two foals (full-brothers Awesome Adrian and Handsome Hoyt) to race for the Valley Crossing mare River Kwai, who won nine flat races for a variety of connections (Bonita Farm, King T. Leatherbury and Reed/Neilson). She made two starts over hurdles before becoming a broodmare. Handsome Hoyt also won on the flat and over jumps.

One race later, Keating was in the winner's circle again—this time aboard Riverdee Stable's Include It for trainer Todd Wyatt. The 6-year-old Maryland-bred, who raced on the flat for his breeder Fitzhugh LLC and trainer Mike Trombetta, placed over hurdles twice last year before making the switch to timber this year.

He collected his first sanctioned win—of any kind—in the Western Run Plate allowance timber for apprentice jockeys with a determined final mile. The son of Include galloped to the lead after the 14th fence, outjumped eventual runner-up My Afleet at the 15th and 16th and accelerated into the last fence to win by 4¼ lengths. Officer Sydney (Ire) finished third.

The win confirmed the promise shown in a win with Keating at Elkridge-Harford Point-to-Point April 3, which came after a second at Piedmont March 20.

"At the point-to-point, he was good, it was just a school around," said Keating. "He was a little bit more revved up today, he was ready for racing, he was very professional, he went out there and ran his race. When I asked him to go, he went, I like to see that in a horse."

Also aboard winner Renegade River at My Lady's Manor, the Irish amateur was happy with his Maryland timber success of three wins in five rides at the three NSA meets, and four point-to-point wins, in the state.

"The last couple of years I've been based up in Pennsylvania, I said I'd come down to Maryland because a lot of the people I ride for are in Maryland," Keating said. "It saves me driving down. I came down to base myself here and see where it goes."

Old School

Vintage Vinnie opens season with win on road to Hunt Cup

By Joe Clancy

As Vintage Vinnie (Ire) sped into the final half-mile of the My Lady's Manor timber stakes, co-owner Ben Griswold IV offered some advice.

"Atta boy, Vinnie . . ." Griswold said from a spot along the snow fence at the top of the stretch. "OK, Vinnie you jumped that well . . . two more to go . . . Keep it going . . . one more Vinnie."

When the talking and the running ended, Vintage Vinnie collected his first timber stakes victory and kicked off an April to remember for Griswold and Armata Stables partner Perry Bolton. Two weeks after the Manor April 10, Vintage Vinnie claimed the Maryland Hunt Cup in a record-setting romp–becoming the first horse to win the Manor and the Hunt Cup in the same year since Freeman's Hill in 1988.

The Hunt Cup was historic, but first came the Manor. All that advice Griswold dispensed came from a place of knowledge as he won the historic timber test as a jockey in 1957 (aboard Doll Ram) and in 1968 (Malakasia).

"I'm not providing much expertise I don't think, but it feels like you're part of it when it's happening," the 80-year-old Griswold said while walking toward the winner's presentation. "I've been coming to the Manor for 78 or 79 years, and Perry and I have been at this since 1993 so to do it with an old friend is terrific. The thrills are the same, and we divide all the expenses by two."

Trained by Joe Davies, Vintage Vinnie made his American debut at the Manor in 2018, finishing second in a maiden timber race. Shelved with a tendon injury for a year, he returned and finished second again the following spring at the Grand National. Last fall, he put together two starts–winning an apprentice-rider timber in October at Great Meadow and finishing third in soft going at the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup. A habit of racing off to long leads, and some hard training sessions at home, convinced Davies that a limited schedule works best.

"We ran him in some point-to-points and he won by 30 and 40 lengths out of the box and by the time we'd get to the sanctioned meets the tank would be empty," Davies said. "You can't give a horse like that a quiet race. Last fall we gave him a flat race and he won at Great Meadow. I think he's got to run fresh, he puts so much into a race and puts just as much into training at home."

This year's schedule started quietly. Vintage Vinnie ran on the flat at the Green Spring Valley Point-to-Point March 27 as a prep for the Manor while the five others in the field all tuned up with timber starts.

The 3-mile Manor lured timber stakes winners Schoodic and Mystic Strike, along with two-time timber winner Officer Sydney (Ire), Maryland Hunt Cup specialist Drift Society (Ire) and the comebacking Preseli Rock (Ire). Rain the night before, heavy spring dew and early-spring grass created a few slick areas that came into play early and late. The Manor winner in 2019, Mystic Strike slipped and fell after just eight fences while galloping in mid-pack. Much more crucially, Schoodic slipped and fell on the final turn just after taking the lead from Vintage Vinnie past fence 14.

Schoodic's fall left Vintage Vinnie, who went to the front at the start for jockey Chris Gracie, in command and he scored by 5¼ lengths over Preseli Rock with Drift Society third.

"He was only three-quarters fit and we got lucky with the other two good horses slipping on the turns, but we've all had our share of those," said Davies. "Bad luck catches everybody at some point."

The win was Davies' first in the Manor as a trainer, but it joined three scores as jockey and extended a long partnership with Armata going back to the partnership's start with timber horse Oval Office in 1992 and eventual Maryland Hunt Cup winner Welter Weight.

"They're great supporters of everybody really, but it means a lot to us," Davies said. "They are the most wonderful owners."

FUELED BY The Mill

The Comeback Trail

Canceled due to the pandemic in 2020, the Manor hosted limited spectators in designated tailgating areas and did not showcase its usual sponsor tents, pit-beef sandwich stand and between-races bluegrass concert but the day felt like a step toward normal for jump racing. The first

TOD MARKS

Eventual Maryland Hunt Cup winner Vintage Vinnie (Chris Gracie) shows the way in the My Lady's Manor timber stakes, which headlined the first National Steeplechase Association race meet of 2021.

NSA meet of 2021 was all about opportunity, and was appreciated across the board.

"The Manor people have done a great job to put this on," said trainer Willie Dowling, speaking for many. "It's just nice to get back out and go racing again."

Dowling was thrilled with his charge Renegade River, who won the day's second race for owner Kiplin Hall. The John Rush Streett Memorial maiden timber drew a field of eight, with Renegade River coming through where his timber career began with a second in the same race two years earlier. The Louisiana-bred son of Bellamy Road set the pace for jockey Eddie Keating and repelled challenges from Our Legend (Ire) and Great Road late to win by 4½ lengths.

Dowling paid at least partial credit to some surgery on the horse's back in 2020.

"We found out he had a kissing spine and we sent him down to Leesburg and they did surgery on him," said Dowling. "They cut a ligament between the bones so instead of his bones being stuck together, there's movement back there. His jumping is so much better now."

The win gave the Griswold family the daily double as the winner is owned by Ben's brother Jay–also a Manor winner as a jockey, aboard Doll Ram in 1960.

FUELED BY The Mill

■ Plan your work, work your plan, but be prepared for anything. Sort of. In the fall of 2019, Mark Beecher went to Laurel Park to claim a horse and saw Road to Oz.

"What's that horse?" Beecher asked himself.

"He was just a big, beautiful horse," the trainer said. "My eye will always go back to a show-jumper, that type of horse, and that was him."

Beecher didn't have a second claim slip so he just watched and hoped for another chance. He did some research at home, loved the Maryland-bred's pedigree–by Quality Road out of the Mizzen Mast mare Miz Magician–and went back to Laurel when the gray gelding was back in for $5,000 Oct. 17. Beecher won a shake, got a prospect and brought in owner Dan Baker

DOUGLAS LEES

Renegade River (left, Eddie Keating) didn't let a slight miscue here effect his performance as he won a maiden timber at My Lady's Manor. A month later, he became a stakes winner at Willowdale in Pennsylvania for trainer Willie Dowling and owner Kiplin Hall.

MY LADY'S MANOR
Monkton, Md., April 10

My Lady's Manor, 3 miles over timber, 5 & up. $30,000. Time: 6:00.20. Margin: 5¼. 1-Armata Stable's VINTAGE VINNIE (IRE) (b.g., 12, Vinnie Roe—Bobby's Jet, by Bob's Return; bred by Miss Carmel Hennessy in Ireland); trainer Joe Davies; jockey Chris Gracie. 2-Bruton Street-US's Preseli Rock (Ire); Jack Fisher; Connor Hankin. 3-Bruton Street-US's Drift Society (Ire); Jack Fisher; Graham Watters. Also ran: Schoodic (fell), Officer Sydney (Ire) (pulled up), Mystic Strike (fell).

John Rush Streett Memorial, 3 miles over timber, 5 & up, maidens over timber. $15,000. Time: 6:04.80. Margin: 4½. 1-Kiplin Hall's RENEGADE RIVER (dk.b./br.g., 8, Bellamy Road—River Dyna, by Dynaformer; bred by Ernie Wells in Louisiana); trainer William Dowling; jockey Eddie Keating. 2-Rather Be Racing's Our Legend (Ire); Jack Fisher; Graham Watters. 3-Kinross Farm's Great Road; Joe Davies; Teddy Davies. Also ran: Worzel Gummidge (Ire), Shootist, Pincer Movement (Ire),Jaleo (Ger) (fell), Lucky Soul (lost rider).

Thomas H. Voss Memorial, 3 miles over timber, 5 & up, maidens over timber. $15,000. Time: 6:02. Margin: 5¼. 1-Holwood Stable's ROAD TO OZ (gr./ro.g., 6, Quality Road—Miz Magician, by Mizzen Mast; bred by R. Larry Johnson in Maryland); trainer Mark Beecher; jockey Graham Watters. 2-Stewart Strawbridge's Midnight Shot (GB); Sanna Neilson; Parker Hendriks. 3-Kiplin Hall's Sideling Hill; William Dowling; McLane Hendriks. Also ran: First Friday, Highway Prince (Ire), Corky Lemon, Notjudginjustsayin (fell), Some Response (Ire) (pulled up).

John D. Schapiro Memorial, 3 miles over timber, 5 & up, apprentice jockeys. $10,000. Time: 6:19.80. Margin: 1¾. 1-Irvin S. Naylor's SUPER SATURDAY (b.g., 12, Any Given Saturday—Lady Aloma, by Cozzene; bred by Walton Breeders in Kentucky); trainer Katherine Neilson; jockey Skylar McKenna. 2-Ann B. Jackson's Flash Jackson; Todd Wyatt; Chris Gracie. 3-Armata Stables' Goodoldtimes (Ire); Alicia Murphy; Eddie Keating. Also ran: It's Nothing, Cheers to Us.

of Holwood Stable. Road to Oz made a few hurdle starts last year, even winning a point-to-point, but the future looked like timber.

"I took him at the end of last year and just started popping him and by the time I was done I was jumping the big post-and-rails," Beecher said. "I told Dan he was a natural. He went to Green Spring [point-to-point win in March], I saw him jumping there and thought we had to go to the Manor."

Ridden by Graham Watters, Road to Oz made it look easy—biding his time behind Midnight Shot (GB) early and kicking away in the stretch to win by 5¼ lengths. Sideling Hill finished third.

FUELED BY The Mill

■ Restricted to apprentice jockeys, the John D. Schapiro Memorial closed the card and showcased timber warrior Super Saturday and Skylar McKenna who teamed up to win by 1¾ lengths over Flash Jackson with Goodoldtimes (Ire) third. The winner halted a 16-race losing streak dating back three years and delighted his jockey.

Road to Oz (right, Graham Watters) outjumps Notjudginjustsayin in the Thomas H. Voss Memorial maiden timber race.

"Riding a horse like him just helps me get a better understanding of pace and jumping with all the other horses," said McKenna, daughter of winning trainer Kathy Neilson. "When I rode the maiden before I was like, 'Oh I've got to jump this fence and then get back in it' or whatever. On Super Saturday, you're just finding a spot. You're just more aware of everything. He makes it so easy."

Owned by Irv Naylor, Super Saturday won once on the flat for trainer Mike Trombetta (like Road to Oz), raced over hurdles in 2013 without winning and switched to timber the next season. The Schapiro was his 40th NSA timber start, and his fourth win to go along with 16 placings (11 in stakes). The 12-year-old put all that experience to good use in the finishing stages of the Manor.

"Coming to the last I told him, 'Buddy, you've jumped enough timber fences to do this, just jump it the way you can and you can win,'" McKenna said.

Super Saturday listened and saw out the victory.

"I was so proud of him," McKenna said. "He deserved to win a race like this." ✹

ROBERT KELLER (2)

Timber veteran Super Saturday (center, Skylar McKenna) leads Flash Jackson (left) and Goodoldtimes late in the day's finale, the John D. Schapiro Memorial for apprentice jockeys.

A Jockey's Life

Baltimore's Adams set riding record in 1930

By Sandra McKee

On a warm autumn afternoon at Marlboro Race Track, Albert Adams climbed aboard Wandering Jim, a gelding who had won for him just the day before on the same track.

If Adams, a 16-year-old apprentice from Baltimore, was nervous, no one knew. But he certainly might have been. It was a big day, a very big day, for the teenage jockey.

It was Sept. 12, 1930, and over the previous two days he had won with eight consecutive mounts. Now he would have his chance to make history in the first race of the afternoon.

If he and Wandering Jim could prevail once more, Adams would set not only the North American jockey record for consecutive wins, but the world record as well.

Years later, he told Baltimore *Evening Sun* sports editor Bill Tanton, "I don't know yet how we win that race . . . I would have bet $1,000 against Wandering Jim."

But he did win and in style, too, in what was reported as "a furious down-the-stretch duel against Pencil . . . Right at the end, Adams literally lifted Wandering Jim's head in front," *The Baltimore Sun* reported.

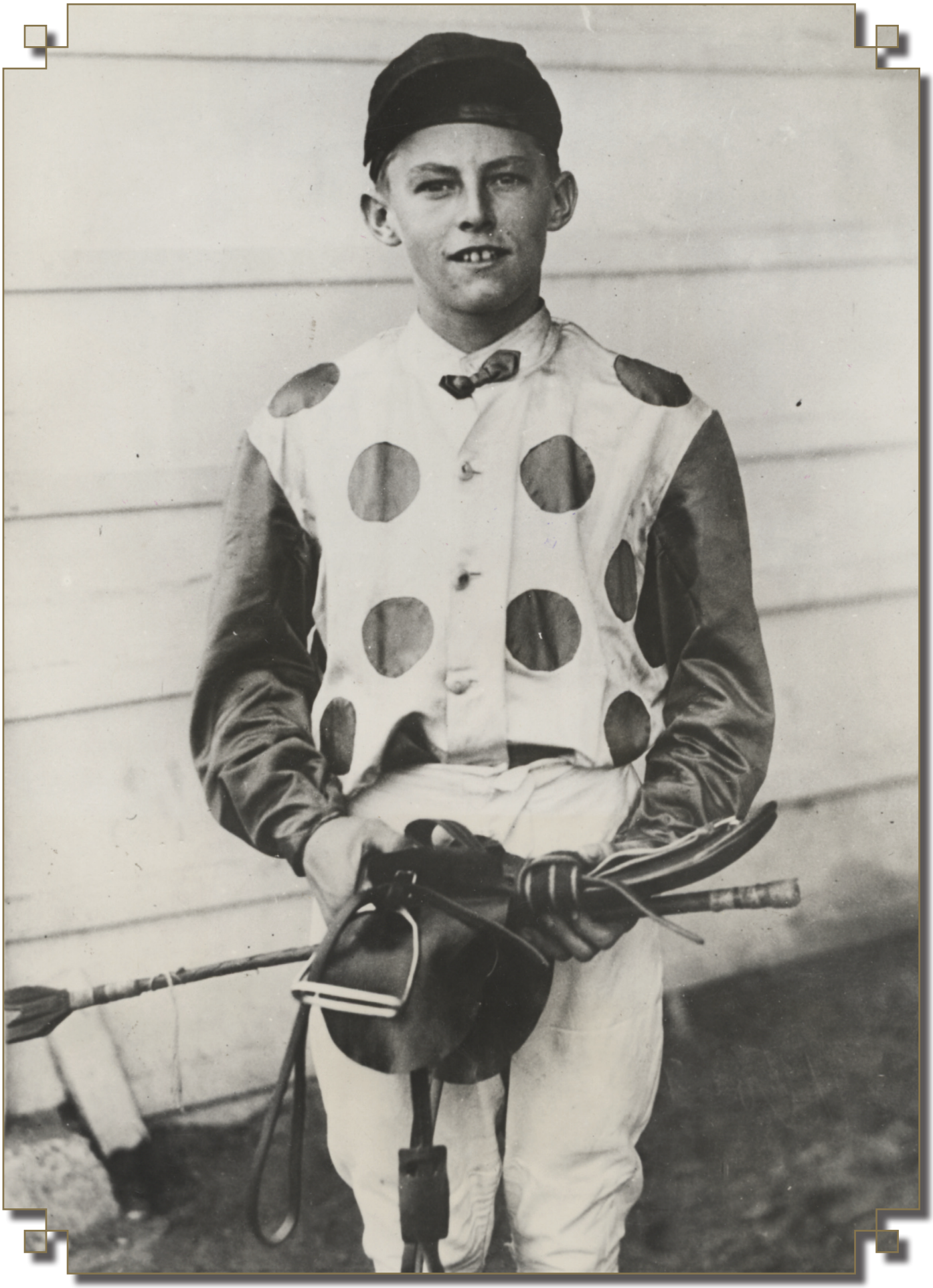
It was a glorious moment, celebrated by local newspapers and various racing publications around the world.

Adams was commemorated in Ripley's Believe It or Not. A sports headline compared him to New York Yankee great Lou Gehrig. Illustrated sports cartoons measured him against Indianapolis 500 champion Ralph DePalma, who competed in more than 1,500 auto races, and New York Giants ace pitcher Art Nehf, who won the deciding games of back-to-back World Series (1921 and 1922).

The world record Adams set on that beautiful afternoon has since been broken – Tim Moccasin captured 14 consecutive races at northwest Canada's Marquis Downs in 2001 to hold the current mark and he was preceded by jockeys in England, Russia and Rhodesia. But the United States mark still stands at nine. Adams did it first, way back in 1930. Tony Black matched that total at Atlantic City and Philadelphia Park in 1993, and Travis Dunkelberger made it a three-way tie with nine consecutive wins at Laurel Park and Charles Town in 2009.

And, as long as nobody wins 10 in the meantime, Adams' original mark will turn 91 years old this September.

It is an achievement his family has kept alive with stories handed down from Adams' six brothers and sister, to sons,



Judy Adams Laane, niece of Albert Adams, is most proud of the momentos she has of her favorite uncle "Scotty", among them photos and a stirrup that according to family legend is from Chile Gold, one of Adams' last mounts.

daughters, nieces, great-nephews and great-great-nieces.

Without their efforts, his flaming star may, at this point, have been extinguished.

You won't find a mention of Albert Adams in the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame. And Hall of Fame researcher Michael Veitch said he can find no story in *The Blood-Horse* magazine of that period, mentioning the winning streak. As of mid-April, his name doesn't even appear in the list of jockeys who competed in the Triple Crown's Belmont Stakes, which he did in 1932, finishing fifth on Polo Bar, 5 lengths back in a field of 11.

But his name does still pop up in publications from time to time, like in 1993, when Black tied the record; and in 2000 when *The Baltimore Sun* included it as a benchmark of achievement on the front of the sports section in a list of major records, alongside Joe DiMaggio's 56 consecutive games with a hit and the 16 consecutive wins by modern-day Thoroughbreds Cigar, Citation and Hallowed Dreams.

Thanks to Adams' great-nephew Ed Adams, who suggested this story, more racing fans can learn of Albert Adams' accomplishment and how his basic good character cost him his career.

Certainly with all the clamor and promise for Adams' future in his chosen sport in 1930, no one could have imagined how short his career would be.

No accounting for inspiration

Adams may have seemed an unlikely fellow to be a record-setting jockey. One of eight children, he was a city boy, born in 1914 at 644 South Belnord Avenue near St. Casimir Catholic School in Canton.

His father, John Adams, emigrated from Germany by himself when he was about 14, sent to the United States by his parents to have a better life. And he did all right. By 1905 he was an American citizen and by the time he became a father, he owned and operated a corner grocery/confectionery store.

But horses were never part of the family's life, until one day when the elder Adams took Albert to Baltimore's Carlin's Park. Most people went to Carlin's for the amazing wooden roller coaster or the wooden horses on the merry-go-round. But once Albert saw the real, live pony rides, he was hooked.

"It's all he talked about from then on," said his niece Judy Adams Laane, who spent hours as a child listening to her uncle's scratchy smoker's voice and his contagious laughter as he told the stories of his life. "He had a pony ride and that was it. He was about 13 and much shorter than all of his siblings, and horses became everything to him."

The slight, fresh-faced boy's determination was fierce. His dad, recognizing his son's gumption, a trait that had served him well as he made his way to the U.S. years before, decided to help Albert make his dream come true.

"To my grandfather, he was already a young man," Laane said. "Knowing how he had handled his own trip to this country when he was barely a teenager, my grandfather knew his son could handle it. So, he took him out of St. Casimir's school and sent him to West Virginia to train as a jockey."

Three years later, lying about his age so he could compete as an apprentice in 1930, Albert was making a name for himself at Marlboro, Havre de Grace and Hagerstown.

"My brother was only 15 when he began riding," Albert's now late brother Edward told reporters after Albert's death in 1970. "He lied, because you had to be 16 to have a jockey's license."

As Adams' apprentice season went on, reviews were flattering. "For a small boy, he has a wonderful pair of arms, plenty of nerve, and a head chock full of intelligence," one newspaper report said.

By the end of the year he had the world record, having won on horses that paid from $4.50 to $18.90. Not one was a favorite.

"And this is interesting," said Veitch, the researcher. "After finishing second in the second race on Sept. 12 on Bounder, Adams came right back and won the third race that day on Secrecy for owner Mrs. R. Christmas and trainer B.F. Christmas. He nearly won 11 straight."

By the time his apprentice season ended, Adams had ridden in 403 races and had a record of 74 wins, 50 seconds, 49 thirds and earnings of $63,390.

Among those wins were 55 in Maryland that tied him with Raymond Workman for leading rider honors in the state.

'Don't give up' a costly slogan

Adams, but a child really, was a favorite of the local papers. Everywhere he went there were stories about his record-setting nine in a row and questions about his favorite foods, his philosophy of riding, his dreams.

His answers were almost prophetic.

He loved fried chicken at the racetracks. Turns out, like nearly every kid, he also loved pie, ice cream and candy, but he recognized what that could mean in his chosen profession.

"I can do all that right now, as I only weigh 96 pounds," he told *The Baltimore News*. "However, a year or so from now, I may have to stop eating all these goodies in order to keep my weight down. But right now, I'm a better man with a knife and fork than I am a rider."

His philosophy: "During those three days, when I set the record, many folks asked 'how I made horses run, how I sat on a horse and what I said to my mounts during a race?' All I can say is this: I sit astride a horse like any other jockey, try to carry out whatever instructions a trainer gives me . . . and to save ground whenever I can."

And his dream: "If I can win races often enough and please my employers and the race fans without getting into trouble or having any accidents, then I'll know I've made good in the greatest of all sports."

Little did the young Adams know what was ahead of him.

"Don't give up during any part of a race, no matter how much trouble you might get into, is my slogan," he said during his apprentice season. "Luck plays a big part in any rider's career, but if a boy never gives up trying, Lady Luck just can't help but give him a break . . ."

By the end of that very year, Lady Luck was playing a very fickle game and Adams' noble slogan would wind up costing him.

Racing in the big time

Adams' success drew the attention of bigger stables and near the end of 1930 his contract, which had been held by his uncle Billy Garth in Virginia, was bought by Genesis Stable for what was then an incredible $10,000.

It seemed he was on his way, racing in Florida, New York and Canada. But racing in those days wasn't always on the up-and-up. Owners and trainers sometimes would direct their jockeys to "pull" horses, to assure they didn't win.

It was a new world for Adams, whose stated philosophy was to "ride to win." In 1931 his new employers had a different philosophy.

"Plenty of 'fixed' races in those days," Adams told *The Evening Sun* long after his career was over. "I had one filly in Canada, Baboo. Rode her at Fort Erie, and I did [as I was told] pull her 14 times and then the trainer decided to let her run.

"I called my father in Baltimore and I said, 'Pop, sell the house, raise all the money you can and put it on this one.' He

No. 471
LICENSE
Baltimore, Md., 5-27 1935
A Trainer's license is hereby granted by the
Maryland Racing Commission under Rule 198, Rules of
Racing to Albert Adams
of 3271 Bethlehem Ave., Dundalk
Baltimore Co., Md.
The license is granted subject to the conditions set forth
in the application therefore and the same may be at any time
summarily revoked, cancelled or temporarily suspended or
withdrawn by the Maryland Racing Commission.
SEAL
MARYLAND RACING COMMISSION
Jas. T. Hayward
SECRETARY

Ed Adams constantly campaigns to get his great uncle Albert Adams the recognition he deserves, including a desire to see him inducted into Maryland's Sports Hall of Fame. He is always handy with his copy of the treasured family scrapbook (there are multiple copies held by many nieces, nephews and their children), which holds clippings of the career of the Baltimore-born jockey and includes a 1935 Maryland Racing Commission trainer's license.

placed the bet at a place called Squire's at Holabird and Dundalk. The old 26 [street]car used to go by there and it was such a big book that when the car got to that corner the conductor used to holler, 'Racetrack!' And all the men would get off with their [Racing] *Forms*.

"Baboo won, all right, and I don't know how much my father won betting her, but the guy had to go to the bank to get the money to cover it."

Adams, no doubt, bet the horse to win, too. And why not? A jockey's wages in those days weren't what they are today. Adams said any number of times that winning sometimes would gain him only a pack of cigarettes.

"There wasn't no guarantee for riders," he explained to a reporter. "We were supposed to get $10 and $25. Twenty-five if you won and $10 if you finished anywhere else. What's nine times $25?"

Two hundred twenty-five, he was told.

"Well, I should have got $225. That's all they had to put in that jocks' room. But I'd say I made close to $5,000 winning them nine in a row. Back then the owners and trainers would give you anything they wanted."

Pulling horses ate at Adams. It went against his moral code, not to mention his racing philosophy. Finally, he disobeyed his trainer's instructions—surely another conflict, as he believed in following employers' directives.

According to race accounts, he was to ride a horse named Chile Gold and before the race in Canada, the trainer told him he didn't want the horse to finish any closer than fifth.

But, in the race, according to a Canadian newspaper story, "Chile Gold went to the front and set the pace to the stretch, where it began to lag a bit. Other horses caught up and Adams, eager for victory, forgot his instructions and went to the whip."

Grounded, beginning of the end

After the race, he was "grounded" by his stable.

"Jock, you've had it," one story quoted his owner. "It'll be a long time before you ride another horse."

And it was. Adams was benched for a year. And he said nothing publicly about that suspension for more than two decades.

At the end of his suspension, Genesis officials told him he could ride again, if he did what he was told.

Adams, recalling the situation decades later, said "I was just a kid itching to get back in action." He said he pulled four more horses and then realized he couldn't stand doing it anymore. That realization brought him another grounding in early 1932 for three months, until his contract ran out.

Seven decades later, his great-great-niece Samantha Adams would hear the story from her father Ed. She was all of 9, but impressed by his character and when asked to write a short paper in her fourth-grade class about someone she admired, she chose her great-great-uncle.

"I admire my Uncle Albert. My Uncle Albert was a horse jockey and he was a very honest man," she wrote. "Uncle Albert won most of his races because when you race your boss tells you to win or not to win, but Uncle Albert always won, because

he was honest. I never met him, but I have heard many stories about him. These are a few of many reasons I admire Uncle Albert."

Albert Adams would be proud to be viewed that way, but at the time, finding a steady riding job was hard. He'd been through a lot and he'd put on weight.

He drifted, riding for a variety of stables, but in 1932, Lady Luck did smile. Adams was hired by Anne Heighe, who owned Prospect Hill Stud near Bel Air, Md., now the Harford Community College campus. And that year, he finished fifth in the Belmont Stakes aboard Heighe's Polo Bar.

He rode some more winners after that, including the last two of his career, but not enough to win the minimum number of races to be listed in the American Racing Manuals of that time.

The groundings, basically for wanting to ride an honest race, had taken their toll. By the end of the 1934 season his riding career was over.

Fine, for all that

It seems Lady Luck may have taken a long lunch in the years Adams needed her, but if anyone believes the late jockey was resentful or held grudges, they'd be wrong.

He continued to gallop horses for Prospect Hill Stud and worked to find younger jockeys rides, until World War II changed the world.

He served as an infantry sergeant in the 29th Division in the Pacific. He came home and worked in an automobile assembly plant for five years before taking a job with the Baltimore Sanitation Department.

On his days off, he still enjoyed going to the races and he rooted for the young jockeys who took aim at his nine-in-a-row record.

When Tanton, *The Evening Sun* sports editor, visited Adams in 1969 in his Essex home, where the former jockey would die from a heart attack the next year, it was just a few days after Laurel jockey Chuck Baltazar had come up three wins short of breaking Adams' mark.

The writer might have expected to find a bitter and relieved record-holding ex-jockey. Instead, true to Adams' moral compass, he found a record-holding jockey who had been rooting for another jockey to break his record.

"Albert Adams is, at 55, remarkably free of hang-ups," Tanton wrote.

"I was pulling for the kid to break it," Adams said that day. "Hell, I was hoping he'd make it 13 and break that English record."

So a man of integrity, who is receiving the recognition his family thought long overdue, still holds the United States record 91 years later. Maybe Lady Luck, as Adams believed all those decades ago, actually did give him a break. ✹

Nine in a Row

Jockey Albert Adams won nine consecutive races, over three days, at Marlboro Racetrack in Maryland. It's still tied for the U.S. record.

September 10

1. Race 6. Malcolm. $5.80.
2. Race 7. Guarany. $6.00.

September 11

3. Race 1. Wandering Jim. $4.50.
4. Race 2. Southland Chief. $18.90.
5. Race 3. West Drift. $8.00.
6. Race 5. Colonel Seth. $7.40.
7. Race 6. High Deli. $7.50.
8. Race 7. Overlook. $6.30.

September 12

9. Race 1. Wandering Jim. $3.30.

Races confirmed by National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame researcher Michael Veitch; win payoff from newspaper clippings.

Pony Power

Been Redeemed enjoys role in McMahon barn

By Sara Gordon

Been Redeemed as a foal with McMahon's son Harry and at the track with partner Lisa Geraghty.

If you ever walk into Hugh McMahon's barn at Laurel Park during a break between sets, you'll likely see staff members standing in and around the office, including Been Redeemed, the stable pony. Ears pricked and attention focused, he looks poised to contribute to the conversation.

But when it comes to Been Redeemed, fondly known around the barn as Been (pronounced "Bean"), his personality, presence and adaptability do all the talking.

Though the McMahon family was well versed in training and owning racehorses, they'd never considered breeding, until Sheza Classy Lady came along. The Michigan-bred daughter of Meadow Prayer ended up in the McMahons' Sola Dei Gloria Stables in 2014 after a 35-start career over four seasons (2011-14), recording 10 wins, five seconds and eight thirds as she earned $233,650.

At a loss for what to do when her racing career ended, the McMahons received some advice from owner/breeder Beverly Heckrotte, who suggested they breed to Limehouse, standing at O'Sullivan Farms in Charles Town, W.Va.

"So we did," said McMahon, who passed the credit to Heckrotte. "[Beverly] kind of held our hand through that process. She was actually the one that foaled him, she took the mare over [to her farm] and foaled him, and then they came back."

The gray mare gave birth to a colt June 16, 2015. After Been Redeemed was weaned, and his dam was given away to continue her life as a broodmare elsewhere, the McMahon family stepped in to be his herd. Hugh, along with his wife DeMelza and children Harry, Elizabeth, Joel and Eve, all played parts in socializing the weanling, their first and only homebred.

"He was kind of very much a people person, because it was just him and we had at the time, four small children, and so they would be constantly out there with him. We've got photos of him laying across on their laps and stuff like that, so he ended up being more comfortable around people than horses," said McMahon. "You know they normally have a mate in the paddock that they play around with and run around with, and well, we were kind of doing that. I was the one that used to fight with him

and stuff. He'd see me and kind of rear up with his little hooves, he'd let us lay all over him, he was just very comfortable around people and he still is to this day . . . I think he thinks he's human."

But when it came to being a racehorse, Been Redeemed lacked the drive and talent to push him above the low claiming ranks. He finished fifth in his debut as a 3-year-old at Charles Town in early 2018 and broke his maiden three starts later in March 2019. He made eight more starts to finish his 4-year-old year, retiring that December with a win, two seconds, a third and $24,674 earned in 12 starts.

"In the mornings, he was a pathetic workhorse, it was like 'Oh man, this is too much hard work, I don't want to be doing this,' you know, and he made it very obvious," said McMahon. "We managed to knock out a maiden victory at the bottom of the bottom in Charles Town and then we were just like 'Now what do we do,' because there's no way he could compete in Maryland, it's just a higher caliber of class and horse."

Been Redeemed also had a small chip in one knee, a minor injury McMahon said rarely bothered most horses.

"With him, it was like 'Oh it hurts, it hurts, oh it's terrible,'" McMahon said. "The surgeon said it's not even worth doing anything with, it's insignificant really, but he made it seem like it was a big deal. So we made the decision to retire him after that and he's been sound ever since. I just think he didn't want to be a racehorse."

Around the time Been Redeemed was set to start training for his new career as a stable pony, Lisa Geraghty was returning to work at the track after years spent as a stay-at-home mom.

The lifelong horsewoman was introduced to steeplechase racing, and eventually flat racing, by her neighbor, trainer Audrey Riker. Once Geraghty learned to gallop horses, her passion soared from there as she worked in all facets of the industry before opening What Luck Farm in Woodbine, Md., which she ran from 2013-19. Geraghty, married to Laurel Park's clocker Tim, had been looking for a new job at the track early last year when McMahon recruited her to ride the pony. As fate would have it, the new team had met two years earlier, when Been Redeemed spent time as a 3-year-old at Geraghty's farm.

"I made him a pony, which was fun, and I've been with him ever since," she said. "I think that everybody in the barn knew he would be a good candidate because he has a good personality, he's got an even-keel temperament, he's not hot, you know some of them can be extremely high-strung. So he started with a good temperament and he's very, very smart. When I was teaching him to neck rein, he picked it right up."

Been Redeemed began his pony training with Geraghty last March, and by the end of the first day, they were already taking horses to the track. By the eighth day, he was neck reining easily and moving well under western tack. Been Redeemed could soon stand calmly behind the starting gate as racehorses powered into workouts. Not bad for a recently retired 5-year-old.

"You've got horses banging [on him], I mean he's taken some that are just jumping and trying to turn themselves inside out, a lot of high-strung horses, and he just happens to have that disposition that he doesn't care about that at all, he doesn't even think about kicking," said Geraghty. "So that's key. A lot of horses try to be ponies and they can't because they will kick."

Now more than a year into his new career, the 6-year-old has the routine down to a science. Geraghty and her partner work mornings and typically take six horses a day, mostly jogging, along with taking jockeys to the pole on their work days twice a week. Other duties include free ponying and occasionally galloping around with a few trainees, though that work is limited in order to preserve Been Redeemed's soundness.

"There's a limit to the number [of horses] they can do, especially for him since he did retire with a chip in the knee, so we keep him for the most part trotting," said Geraghty. "He can trot up to five miles a day and completely be fine with it—ears pricked, happy, no problems—so he'll escort a lot of horses around at the jog, Hugh does that a lot. Horses love him because [ponies are] like a security blanket for a lot of the horses, they make insecure horses feel secure, so they love him but he doesn't really care about them."

As much as he's there for the horses in McMahon's barn, Been Redeemed also serves as a source of peace and happiness for the track community. With ears pricked and constantly on a swivel, he listens patiently during group conversations or meetings, while also performing tricks for treats and enjoying games of hide-and-go-seek with staff members that are his constant source of peppermints.

"If you've been in a shedrow at a racetrack, it's very high pressure, because you have to get 40 horses out in a very limited timeframe, so people can tend to be tense you know because everything has to stay on schedule, everything has to work perfectly, jockeys have to show up, so it can be a stressful atmosphere, and I think the best thing about him is he makes us crack up and laugh so hard every day. And it's every day," said Geraghty. "I don't even know all the people that give him the mints, but he'll stop for them and put his head in their lap and wait for a mint, it's the cutest thing. We just play, we do those games with him during the break, and it's just nice."

Been Redeemed holds a special place in the hearts of the McMahon family, as does his name, which reflects their values as a Christian family.

"As believers in Jesus, we have been redeemed, so we came up with the name Been Redeemed, because it's what we the Christians received, redemption, and it's a play on words too," said McMahon. "But the fact that we celebrate Easter is evidence of the resurrection and so redemption is for all of humanity and it's a wonderful gift."

If Been Redeemed hadn't settled in so nicely to life as a stable pony, he'd return home to the family farm and probably be McMahon's wife's trail horse.

"I don't even know if he'd go over jumps, because that would involve work," said McMahon. "He has that adverse reaction to things like that. But you have to love them nonetheless, right?"

Right. ✹

Hey, Hugh McMahon, how valuable are lead ponies?

"The ponies are the unsung heroes . . . Just think about it, the nature of the horse, how gracious they are. They'll race for you . . . and they'll go from that really crazy, intense training to having to go completely the other way. Now they've got to be so composed—the bell's gonna ring, the gate's gonna break, horses are rushing past—and they stand there completely quiet, they're just wonderful."

Off base

Dirt surface problems spur complete track overhaul, early move to Pimlico

BY PAUL HALLORAN. PHOTOGRAPHS BY JIM MCCUE

Short-term pain that results in long-term gain is seemingly always worth it—but that doesn't necessarily make the process any less excruciating.

For more information, contact anyone associated with racing in Maryland.

Maryland horsemen and track officials might argue that their suffering, starting with a three-month shutdown last spring at the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, has been anything but fleeting.

"I forget what normal looks like," said veteran trainer Mike Trombetta, not really trying to be funny. "I hope it comes back soon."

Trombetta was discussing the crisis du jour, the replacement of the dirt track at Laurel Park, a project that started as a repair but quickly transitioned to a complete rebuild, necessitated by problems that ran deeper—literally—than originally thought.

"It's like you're renovating your house and putting in a new bathroom, and you find a problem with the foundation," said Dr. Mick Peterson of the Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory and director of the Racetrack Safety Program at the University of Kentucky. "They took the approach to fix the foundation."

Racing at Laurel was canceled April 17-19 and moved to Pimlico Race Course starting April 22, two weeks before the scheduled start of the Pimlico meet. The circuit was expected to remain at Old Hilltop at least a month beyond the original closing date of May 31, while Maryland's version of the Big Dig is completed at Laurel. The target date is July 1.

"The horsemen were thinking 2020 was over with and 2021 was going to be a much brighter year," said trainer Tim Keefe, president of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. "Then we get hit with this. It's tough on everybody, but this is the reality."

Work was progressing on the main track at Laurel Park in May, while racing moved to Pimlico early. Horses were scheduled to be relocated to Pimlico and Timonium in mid-May.

The Stronach Group's Aidan Butler (above) and MTHA's Tim Keefe (top right) and David Richardson wrestled with the track repairs and logistical challenges of moving horses between Maryland's tracks.

There was little warning prior to the shutdown, though there were indications that the surface at Laurel was not responding to the usual post-winter cushion repairs. It was not an easy winter, as the 4.3 inches of precipitation in February marked the third-highest total for the month in the last 20 years.

Maryland THA Executive Director David Richardson said there were problems with the mixture of dirt brought in for the spring, prompting a more in-depth analysis of the surface. Stronach Group Chief Operating Officer Aidan Butler wasn't sure what the issue was, but he was convinced there was a problem.

"The track was inconsistent," said Butler. "Horsemen need to bank on a consistent surface."

There were three fatal breakdowns during morning training in April, including two on the same day. While it is virtually impossible to determine if they can be attributed to track conditions, Butler realized that really isn't the point.

"If I don't have confidence in the racetrack, that's enough for me," Butler said of the decision to close Laurel except for jogging and galloping, which was allowed until all 800 horses could be relocated after the Preakness. "We were going to err on the side of caution."

As the cushion was being removed, track superintendent Chris Bosley and his crew, working in collaboration with racetrack surface guru Dennis Moore, who was brought in from Santa Anita, and Peterson, got a good look at the base and they didn't like what they saw.

"It became apparent to me that we had a bigger problem," Butler said. "The original intent was to add new cushion, but we didn't have a lot of confidence in the base."

Geotechnical engineers bored holes around the track and used radar technology to examine the base. The more they saw, the more it became apparent it would not be an easy fix.

"There has always been a patchwork approach and that isn't what this place deserves," said Butler, who along with his team has worked with Richardson and Keefe to keep the horsemen informed throughout the process through weekly virtual community meetings. "The best thing for the horsemen and the horses is to do it once and do it right."

Richardson said the horsemen were not surprised to learn that a complete overhaul was needed.

"We have always had base issues at Laurel," he said. "We've wanted a new racetrack for many years, but the money hasn't been there."

Butler has changed that dynamic, pretty much offering a blank check in order to get the job done right. As a bonus, he has made the horsemen feel like partners in the process.

"The Stronach Group has worked closely with us," Richardson said. "When this happened in the past, we didn't have this kind of access. We are as integrated in this as we have ever been. We're not being dictated to. We're part of the decision making. From a horsemen's perspective, what more could you want?"

Butler said his philosophy is to be as transparent as possible and, while he has been met with some grumblings, he appreciates the horsemen's patience and understanding.

"I try to be a man of my word," he said. "Take me at my actions. We want to get everybody the safest racetrack we can."

In addition to the daunting task of basically building a new racetrack surface, there were a mountain of logistical hurdles to clear to move all the horses from Laurel after the Preakness. Richardson ran point on that effort, arranging for 120 temporary stalls in tents in a Pimlico parking lot. Some horses went to Timonium, though stalls there were not available until several days after Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's 2-year-old sale May 17-18.

"Nobody planned this, but it has to be done," Keefe said. "The owners and trainers are at their wits' end, but we have to make the best of a bad situation."

As difficult as relocating is, it beats having to ship horses – and barn staff – 40 minutes for official workouts, which was the case from mid-April until after the Preakness. "That was a huge, time-consuming process," Keefe said.

Laurel also lost two weekends of racing in late March and early April due to an equine herpes outbreak.

"I admire the horsemen so much," Richardson said. "They have taken the punches and weathered the storms."

Bosley, who had been in his position for only a year when the crisis hit, has the confidence of his bosses and the horsemen.

The Reds (4) battles Excellorator to the line in the Federico Tesio.

Miss Leslie gears down with a win in the Weber City Miss.

"Chris is a young guy and a tough guy," Butler said. "He's breaking his back to make sure we are going to get the best track possible."

"We're damn lucky to have Chris," Richardson said. "Good track superintendents don't grow on trees."

The ultimate goal is for Bosley to have a much more reliable surface to tend to once this project is complete.

"This is a long-term fix, not a Band-Aid approach," said Peterson. "They're doing it right."

In addition to addressing the immediate surface issues at Laurel, there are long-term plans to completely rebuild the physical plant there and at Pimlico, after the state of Maryland authorized up to $375 million in bonds for the projects through the Racing and Community Development Act of 2020.

"We have a bright future," Richardson said. "We just have to get there."

RACING AMID UNCERTAINTY

With Laurel shut down, racing moved to Pimlico and the Baltimore track hosted six stakes April 24. The Federico Tesio for 3-year-olds and Weber City Miss for 3-year-old fillies provided the highlights, and much of the drama as The Reds got moved up to first in the $125,000 Tesio after on-track winner Excellorator drifted out in the stretch and interfered with the runner-up.

The stewards' decision elevated 2-1 favorite The Reds to the victory for Flanagan Racing and trainer John Kimmel. The son of Tonalist, fifth in Aqueduct's Gotham Stakes-G3 in March, collected his first stakes win. The winner was bred in Kentucky by R.S. Evans, and sold for $130,000 at the Ocala Breeders' Sales Company's April sale last year. Excellorator, bred in Maryland by CRK Stable, placed in his second consecutive stakes for trainer Hugh McMahon. The son of Orb sold for $3,000 at Keeneland September in 2019 and was claimed by McMahon and Philmor Racing Stables out of a win for $62,500 at Laurel in February.

The Tesio made its debut at Pimlico in 1981, and stayed every year but two through 2015. Named for the noted Italian breeder, owner and trainer whose homebreds Nearco and *Ribot dominate Thoroughbred bloodlines around the world, the Tesio was held at Laurel Park in 1987 and 1989 and each year since 2016.

■ BB Horses' Miss Leslie, stretched back out around two turns after opening the year with back-to-back sprints, proved trainer Claudio Gonzalez's contention that longer is better with a 1½-length victory in the $125,000 Weber City Miss.

The 1⅛-mile Weber City Miss drew a field of six headlined by recent Laurel winner Littlestitious from trainer Tom Amoss. Miss Leslie, sent off at 9-1, rallied from last through 6 furlongs to catch Oliviaofthedesert in the stretch with the favorite third. Gonzalez figured the race

April stakes results for Pimlico

4/24 Federico Tesio ($125K). 1⅛ mi. 3YO.

Winner: **THE REDS** (ch.c., Tonalist—Ash Zee, by Exchange Rate). B-R.S. Evans (Ky.). O-Flanagan Racing. T-John C. Kimmel. J-Victor R. Carrasco. Time: 1:49.98. Margin: (head). 2nd (DQ from first): **Excellorator**. 3rd: **Royal Number**.

4/24 Weber City Miss ($125K). 1⅛ mi. 3YOF.

Winner: **MISS LESLIE** (dk.b./br.f., Paynter—Zeenut, by Mingun). B-Maxis Stable (Ky.). O-BB Horses. T-Claudio A. Gonzalez. J-J.D. Acosta. Time: 1:44.28. Margin: 1½. 2nd: **Oliviaofthedesert**. 3rd: **Littlestitious**.

4/24 Dahlia ($100K). 1⅛ mi. Turf. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **XANTHIQUE** (b.m., 5, Into Mischief—Qualia, by Saarland). B-Marc Keller (Ky.). O-VinLaur Racing Stables. T-Thomas Morley. J-Feargal Lynch. Time: 1:41.92. Margin: nose. 2nd: **Crystal Cliffs (Fr)**. 3rd: **Vigilantes Way**.

4/24 Frank Y. Whiteley ($100K). 6F. 3&up.

Winner: **LAKI** (ch.g., 8, Cuba—Truthful Dutch, by Swear by Dixie). B-Tom Michaels and Lorna Baker (Md.). O-Hillside Equestrian Meadows. T-Damon R. Dilodovico. J-Horacio Karamanos. Time: 1:09.33. Margin: ½. 2nd: **Lebda**. 3rd: **Eastern Bay**.

FUELED BY The Mill

4/24 Henry S. Clark ($100K). 1⅛ mi. Turf. 3&up.

Winner: **CORELLI** (b.g., 6, Point of Entry—Vignette, by Diesis-GB). B-George Strawbridge Jr. (Ky.). O-Augustin Stable. T-Jonathan Thomas. J-Jevian Toledo. Time: 1:41.55. Margin: nose. 2nd: **Pixelate**. 3rd: **Dreams of Tomorrow**.

4/24 King T. Leatherbury ($100K). 5 F. Turf. 3&up.

Winner: **COMPLETED PASS** (b.g., 7, Pass Rush—Christina's Gold, by Gold Token). B-Swifty Farms (Ind.). O-Robert D. Bone. T-Claudio A. Gonzalez. J-Angel Cruz. Time: :56.52. Margin: ¾. 2nd: **Francatelli**. 3rd: **Fair Catch**.

Corelli (1) rallies to win the Henry Clark by a nose for Augustin Stable.

would set up for his filly, a $25,000 claim in November, and jockey J.D. Acosta.

"Everybody knows speed is good, and a lot of horses had speed. I told J.D., stay behind the speed and then do one move," Gonzalez said. "He did it perfect. He rode just like we planned."

The Paynter filly won her first two starts off the claim, then finished second in the 6-furlong Xtra Heat Stakes in January and was sixth in the 7-furlong Wide Country in February.

Gonzalez also won the King T. Leatherbury Stakes on the card with Completed Pass, who edged Francatelli by three-quarters of a length in the turf sprint. Owned by Robert Bone, the Indiana-bred picked up his ninth lifetime win.

■ Maryland-bred Laki ousted Lebda in the Frank Whiteley Stakes, winning by a half-length over the early leader while covering 6 furlongs in 1:09.33 and reaching $800,662 in career earnings. Owned by Hillside Equestrian Meadows and bred by Tom Michaels and Lorna Baker, the son of Cuba won for the 11th time and notched his seventh stakes win (including the 2019 Whiteley; he lost by a nose in the 2020 version) for trainer Damon Dilodovico.

■ Classy turf horses met in the Henry Clark, with the Grade 1-placed Corelli prevailing by a nose over Grade 2 winner Pixelate in a field of nine. Trained by Jonathan Thomas for Augustin Stable, the winner was making his first start since October. Grade 3 winner Eons was fourth. In the Dahlia, for fillies and mares on the turf, New York-based trainer Tom Morley's Xanthique scored by a nose over Crystal Cliffs (Fr). It was the first stakes win for the daughter of Into Mischief, who races for VinLaur Racing Stables.

NOTES: Jockey Forest Boyce returned after missing 54 days with a shoulder injury, piloting Booyakasha to a win April 23 for owner William McCarthy and trainer Emanuel "Mike" Geralis. "It feels great. I appreciate them giving me the opportunity," Boyce said. "I just had to hang on. It was a real confidence booster today." The win was the first for Boyce since Miss Philly Dilly Feb. 7 at Laurel. "It was out at the farm. A horse fell with me over a jump," Boyce said of the injury. "It was the coracoclavicular ligament; not the rotator cuff but the one that kind of stabilizes it. That's why it took so long. I think it would have been a lot easier if I broke it. If you break a collarbone, you're back in a couple weeks" . . . As if the track repairs at Laurel weren't enough, Pimlico had to cancel after just three races April 30 due to high winds . . . Three horses jumped out to quick starts at the Pimlico meet as Desbordes (April 23 and May 9), Titan's Will (April 25 and May 9) and Extra Medium (April 24 and May 1) posted two wins . . . Kieron Magee went 9-for-19 through May 9 to take a short lead in the trainers' standings. Gonzalez was two back in second, followed by Hugh McMahon and Jerry Robb with six each. ✹

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'Mr. Fluffy'

Barn favorite known for big frame, bigger appetite continues to shine

BY MELISSA BAUER-HERZOG. PHOTOGRAPH BY COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

V. I. P. Ticket storms home in the Confucius Say for his second career stakes win.

V. I. P. Ticket, a Maryland-bred who had already showed a love of Charles Town Races, showed that affinity again on the first Saturday in May with a victory in the Confucius Say Stakes for his sixth victory at the West Virginia track.

Shipping from Pimlico for the 7-furlong accredited West Virginia-bred stakes, the 5-year-old son of Windsor Castle was content to race near last as Penguin Power and Hero's Man set the pace with a :23.31 quarter and :47.08 half. V. I. P. Ticket had more than 8 lengths to make up if he wanted to take a win back to Maryland and he did just that.

V. I. P. Ticket circled the field around the turn and galloped right on by the leaders with only Mean Bean sticking with him. In the end, V. I. P. Ticket was a three-quarter-length winner over Mean Bean with Final Say third.

Trainer Jeremiah O'Dwyer said the race went the way he'd planned for the Dr. Alexandro Rubim Dias-homebred, with the speed setting up perfectly for his charge.

"It was an honest performance from a very honest horse," O'Dwyer said. "The race worked out the way I hoped it would. We knew going in there that we would need a bit of luck in running as he does not have a lot of tactical early speed. He likes to break and be given a chance to find his feet and get into a nice rhythm and he always comes running late."

V. I. P. Ticket has been a mainstay in O'Dwyer's barn, but it wasn't always smooth sailing. He needed nine attempts to break his maiden, but once that victory came he seemed to find the confidence needed to turn into one of the most consistent horses in the country over the past two years.

"He is a joy to have around the barn, we have had him since he was a 2-year-old, although he always showed he had ability, he is such a big horse that he took a little time to fill out his big frame," O'Dwyer said. "He is very laid back and is affectionately known as 'Mr. Fluffy' around the barn. Anyone can handle him. He is so laid back. His favorite thing is eating and he gets more than his fair share of carrots."

Being by a West Virginia sire, V. I. P. Ticket lined up for his first accredited West Virginia-bred race the start after his maiden victory in March 2019. He won by 3½ lengths to start the love affair with Charles Town, where he's 6-2-2 in 10 starts.

"When I bred him, I was just hoping to win against maiden $10,000 claimers here," said Dias of his two-time stakes winner, who could be pointed for the $800,000 Charles Town Classic-G2 Aug. 27. "I really was just hoping to get lucky and win a maiden race with him. But he really loves this track and he's good going two turns or three turns. That race at Laurel Park last time [a third in an April allowance] set up him for this race."

V. I. P. Ticket won his first stakes race at Charles Town last December in the A Huevo and also placed in the 2020 Confucius Say. O'Dwyer never imagined a horse his size would like the tight turns of the 5-furlong track.

"I'm not sure why he likes Charles Town so much," he said. "He is such a big horse that you would never expect him to go around a tight track and perform the way he does. But he is West Virginia-sired so we had to try him and thankfully he goes around those tight bends like a motorcycle."

O'Dwyer isn't sure about future targets, but eligibility in the state-bred races provides options.

"He is still eligible for a first-level allowance in some states, as apart from his maiden special weight win all his wins have been state-bred races," O'Dwyer said. "He runs his race every time and always shows up. You would love a barn full of horses like him for your owners."

V. I. P. Ticket is out of the multiple stakes-placed mare Touring Hong Kong, also a Maryland-bred, who spent much of her career in the Mid-Atlantic. Her sire Cherokee's Boy was another who loved Charles Town—12 of the millionaire's 48 starts were at the track, and he was never worse than third while winning eight times.

■ One race after V. I. P Ticket's latest win, the 3-year-old West Virginia-bred Door Buster pulled a minor upset in the Its Binn Too Long Stakes.

Sent off at 15-1, the Speightster filly trained by Ollie Figgins III gave herself plenty of work to do in the 4½-furlong stakes when immediately dropping 7 lengths behind the leader. The filly didn't stay in that position for long, racing up the rail as the leaders put up a :21.93 first quarter. Door Buster tracked into the stretch before pulling away to a 1¼-length win over Shutupn'kissme.

Owned by Jay Reese, Door Buster was bred by Catherine Jennings and Scott Mallory. Part of Mallory's consignment at the 2019 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale, the filly was sold to Reese for $25,000.

She's the latest family member to add Charles Town form under her first two generations. The filly's dam, Miss Henny Penny, made all 15 starts at the track—winning three and placing in a stakes. Ocean Lilly, a 5-year-old half-sister to Door Buster, has made 24 starts at Charles Town and won six while piling up $131,040 in earnings. Country Mamma, Miss Henny Penny's half-sister by Bellamy Road, won six times at Charles Town while a half-brother by Limehouse (Limmey) won eight.

NOTES: Golden Key made his debut at Charles Town in late January and ran his record to 3-for-5 May 8 with a victory in the $75,000 Coin Collector Stakes for West Virginia-breds. Trained by owner and co-breeder Ronney Brown, the 3-year-old Uncle Lino gelding was first out of the gate and first to the lead in the Coin Collector. He won by a neck over 3-2 favorite Social Chic. Golden Key, co-bred by Francis Daniel III and out of the Malibu Moon mare Golden Debutante, also followed his family's success at Charles Town. Golden Debutante finished second in the 2010 Eleanor Casey Memorial and granddam Original Gold has a stakes named for her . . . Nobody was having better Charles Town seasons than Take Me Home, Be Be Bop and Primal Destiny—each 5-for-5 at the track this year through May 10. ✹

Additional reporting by Cindy Deubler

Stakes results for Charles Town

4/17 Original Gold ($75K). 7 F. Reg. WV-Bred, 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **BRIGINTINE ISLAND** (ch.m., 5, Jersey Town—Deli Lama, by Langfuhr). B-Cynthia O'Bannon (W.Va.). O-Cynthia E. McKee. T-John D. McKee. J-Reshawn Latchman. Time: 1:26.55. Margin: 7. 2nd: **See Ya Manana**. 3rd: **Malibu Splash**.

5/1 Confucius Say ($75K). 7 F. Reg. WV-Bred, 3&up.

Winner: **V. I. P. TICKET** (b.h., 5, Windsor Castle—Touring Hong Kong, by Cherokee's Boy). B-Dr. Alexandro Rubim Dias (Md.). O-A.R.D. Racing Stables. T-Jeremiah O'Dwyer. J-Gerald Almodovar. Time: 1:27.31. Margin: ¾. 2nd: **Mean Bean**. 3rd: **Final Say**.

5/1 Its Binn Too Long ($75K). 4½ F. Reg. WV-Bred, 3YOF.

Winner: **DOOR BUSTER** (b.f., Speightster—Miss Henny Penny, by Half Ours). B-Catherine Jennings and Scott Mallory (W.Va.). O-Jay A. Reese. T-Ollie L. Figgins III. J-Denis Araujo. Time: :53.13. Margin: 1¼. 2nd: **Shutupn'kissme**. 3rd: **Got Your Number**.

5/8 Coin Collector ($75K). 4½ F. Reg. WV-Bred, 3YO.

Winner: **GOLDEN KEY** (ch.g., Uncle Lino—Golden Debutante, by Malibu Moon). B-Francis W. Daniel III and Ronney W. Brown (W.Va.). O/T-Ronney W. Brown. J-Luis Batista. Time: :52.36. Margin: neck. 2nd: **Social Chic**. 3rd: **Spurn**.

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Hitched Up

Chub Wagon rolls in Unique Bella as undefeated streak reaches five

BY TOM LAW. PHOTOGRAPHS BY EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

Danny Lopez went to Parx Racing with two of his six grandchildren in late April to see Chub Wagon make her stakes debut and came away with the same feeling he's had all along about his homebred daughter of Hey Chub.

"Best horse I've ever bred," said Lopez, who bred the 4-year-old filly in the name of his Joe-Dan Farm with George Chestnut, after Chub Wagon improved to 5-for-5 in the $100,000 Unique Bella Stakes for Pennsylvania-breds April 27.

He reiterated it three weeks later, well after Jomar Torres rode her to a 7½-length win over Promised Storm in the 7-furlong stakes.

"I believe that because of the way she wins," Lopez said. "And she hasn't really been set down yet."

Chub Wagon didn't get much of a test in the Unique Bella. Sent off at 1-2 in the field of six, she did what she'd done in her prior four starts and went to the front. A slight bobble slowed her, but Chub Wagon wound up a half-length clear through opening splits of :22.73 and :45.20. Chub Wagon widened around the turn and was 6 lengths clear in the stretch before drawing off under mild urging.

Trained by Guadalupe Preciado, Chub Wagon earned $59,400 and padded her bankroll to $172,800.

"A couple people have tried to go with her and she just keeps going and widening," Lopez said of Chub Wagon's front-running style. "Like I said, she's never really been set down. She's got the speed and then when you try to come get her, she's still got horse left."

April stakes results for Parx Racing

4/27 **Page McKenney** ($100K). 7 F. Reg. PA-Bred, 3&up.

Winner: **WAIT FOR IT** (b.g., 6, Uptowncharlybrown—Kimberley Diamond, by Posse). B-Fantasy Lane Stable (Pa.). O-Uptowncharlybrown Stud. T-Edward J. Coletti Jr. J-Anthony Y. Nunez. Time: 1:21.72. Margin: 1. 2nd: **Chilly in Charge**. 3rd: **Breezy Gust**.

4/27 **Unique Bella** ($100K). 7 F. Reg. PA-Bred, 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **CHUB WAGON** (b.f., 4, Hey Chub—Takin the Plunge, by Lion Heart). B-Joe-Dan Farm and George Chestnut (Pa.). O-Daniel J. Lopez and George Chestnut. T-Guadalupe Preciado. J-Jomar Torres. Time: 1:22.21. Margin: 7½. 2nd: **Promised Storm**. 3rd: **Ujjayi**.

Lopez bred Chub Wagon in Pennsylvania after moving his operation to the Keystone State following a long association in New Jersey. He previously stood Hey Chub at his farm in Medford, N.J., where the homebred stallion sired the likes of Grade 3 winner Chublicious and stakes winners Chubble Maker and Brother Chub.

Chub Wagon is the product of Lopez's downsized breeding operation. The program produced six Pennsylvania-breds in 2021 and his six pregnant mares are slated to foal in Pennsylvania next year. The horses, including Hey Chub, are boarded with others in the equine program at Delaware Valley University in Doylestown.

"I don't have a farm; I can't do the work anymore. Too old," Lopez said. "They foaled at the college, they do a good job there. They took my stallion last year because they had no stallion for the kids in their courses. So I said, 'fine, I'll just breed my own mares to him and that's what I did last year,' with one outside mare, just to do them a favor."

Chub Wagon is the third foal out of Takin the Plunge, an unraced daughter of Lion Heart. Lopez, through Joe-Dan Farm, purchased the Arch mare Sassy Broad, carrying Takin the Plunge in utero, for $12,000 at the 2009 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky February mixed sale. He bought her Feb. 9 and eight days later, after shipping her north from Lexington, she produced Takin the Plunge.

After Takin the Plunge, Sassy Broad has been bred exclusively to Hey Chub, producing seven foals to date. Her five Hey Chub offspring to race are all winners, including $676,753 earner and 2017 Frank J. DeFrancis Memorial Dash Stakes-G3 winner Chublicious.

"Sassy Broad has been a nice broodmare; her foals can run," Lopez said. "And this mare [Takin the Plunge], Chub Wagon is her second foal to get to the races."

Chub Wagon's older full-sister, the 7-year-old Chubofftheoldblock, finished third in the Eleven North Handicap at Monmouth Park in 2020 and finished fourth in a starter allowance at Parx April 12. She'd won five of 24 and earned $177,388 through May 11.

Takin the Plunge is also the dam of an unraced 3-year-old Uncle Lino colt named Helosthismarbles who is in training with Preciado at Parx, and a yearling filly by Hey Chub. She was also bred back to Hey Chub last year.

Chub Wagon didn't make her debut until late last November, with her connections taking their time and letting the filly come into her frame. She won her debut by 7½ lengths in a 6-furlong waiver-claiming event at Parx Nov. 16, not running for a $20,000 tag, and came back to win an open allowance going 6½ furlongs Dec. 28.

Lopez called her third race, a 10-length victory going 5½ furlongs against Pennsylvania-breds March 2 at Parx "the most impressive race I've ever seen."

"All of them have been impressive," he said. "The first time she ran she was green and still won by 7. Then the second time she ran in the a-other-than open, she ended up doing her thing still not really knowing what she was doing. Then in the Pennsylvania-bred a-other-than … she just broke, took command and just galloped around there. In a gallop from the start."

Chub Wagon's fourth start came out of town, the day before the Wood Memorial Stakes-G2 and two races prior to the $145,500 Distaff Handicap-G3 April 2 at Aqueduct. She won that 6-furlong allowance by 4¾ lengths in 1:11.68.

"Mr. [Irad] Ortiz asked her a little bit there at the end and she just widened," Lopez said. "Two races later was a graded stakes race for fillies and mares and they ran [1:13.38] compared to her 11 and 3. They ended up running the seven-eighths in [1:26.99], almost 27. If I had run in the graded race, she probably would have gone wire-to-wire."

■ Uptowncharlybrown Stud's Wait for It became a three-time stakes winner and won a race at Parx for the fifth consecutive season in the race immediately after the Unique Bella, the $100,000 Page McKenney Handicap for Pennsylvania-breds. The 6-year-old gelding by Uptowncharlybrown won by a length as the 7-1 fourth choice, with Chilly in Charge second and 8-5 favorite Breezy Gust a neck back in third in the field of nine.

Bred by Fantasy Lane Stable and trained by Eddie Coletti Jr., Wait for It won the Storm Cat Stakes at Parx and Hard Spun Stakes at Presque Isle Downs last season. He came into the Page McKenney off two losses in allowance company, including a sixth going 1 mile and 70 yards March 8. Shortened up to 7 furlongs for the Page McKenney, Wait for It and Anthony Nunez won in 1:21.72 to improve to 11-for-29 with $559,828 in earnings. ✹

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STAKES WINNERS

COGLIANESE PHOTO

Pennsylvania-bred Vault went from last to first in Belmont's Grade 2 Ruffian Stakes in May, scoring by 1¾ lengths in the 1-mile contest. The 5-year-old daughter of the late Pennsylvania stallion Jump Start brought her earnings to $419,414.

Complete statistics on 2021 Mid-Atlantic-bred stakes winners available at MidAtlanticTB.com, including interactive pedigrees, race records, produce records of dam, and more.

Maryland-bred

JAXON TRAVELER, dk.b./br.c., 2018, Munnings—Listen Boy, by After Market. Bred by Dr. & Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau; owned by West Point Thoroughbreds & Marvin Delfiner; trained by Steven M. Asmussen. $200,000 **Bachelor S**, 6 fur., 3YO, Oaklawn, April 24; 2nd **Gazebo S**.

LAKI, ch.g., 2013, Cuba—Truthful Dutch, by Swear by Dixie. Bred by Tom Michaels & Lorna Baker; owned by Hillside Equestrian Meadows; trained by Damon R. Dilodovico. $100,000 **Frank Y. Whiteley S**, 6 fur., 3&up, Pimlico, April 24; 3rd **General George S-G3**.

V. I. P. TICKET, b.h., 2016, Windsor Castle—Touring Hong Kong, by Cherokee's Boy. Bred by Dr. Alexandro Rubim Dias; owned by ARD Racing Stables; trained by Jeremiah O'Dwyer. $75,000 **Confucius Say S**, 7 fur., registered accredited WV-breds, 3&up, Charles Town, May 1.

New Jersey-bred

HOROLOGIST, b.m., 2016, Gemologist—Cinderella Time, by Stephen Got Even. Bred by Holly Crest Farm; owned by There's A Chance Stable, Medallion Racing, Abbondanza Racing LLC, Parkland Thoroughbreds, Paradise Farms Corp. & David Staudacher; trained by William I. Mott. $100,000 **Top Flight Invitational S**, 1⅛ mi., F&M, 4&up, Aqueduct, April 10.

Pennsylvania-bred

BEREN, b.c., 2018, Weigelia—Silmaril, by Diamond. Bred and owned by Susan C. Quick & Christopher J. Feifarek; trained by Robert E. Reid Jr. $100,000 **Gold Fever S**, 6 fur., 3YO, Belmont, May 9.

CHUB WAGON, b.f., 2017, Hey Chub—Takin the Plunge, by Lion Heart. Bred by Joe-Dan Farm & George Chestnut; owned by Daniel J. Lopez & George Chestnut; trained by Guadalupe Preciado. $100,000 **Unique Bella S**, 7 fur., registered Pa.-bred F&M, 3&up, Parx, April 27.

VAULT, b.m., 2016, Jump Start—Di's Delight, by French Deputy. Bred by Barlar LLC; owned by Kueber Racing LLC, Barlar LLC, Madaket Stables LLC & Little Red Feather Racing; trained by Brad H. Cox. $200,000 **Ruffian S-G2**, 1 mi., F&M, 4&up, Belmont, May 2.

WAIT FOR IT, b.g., 2015, Uptowncharlybrown—Kimberley Diamond, by Posse. Bred by Fantasy Lane Stable; owned by Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC; trained by Edward J. Coletti Jr. $100,000 **Page McKenney H**, 7 fur., registered PA-breds, 3&up, Parx, April 27.

West Virginia-bred

BRIGINTINE ISLAND, ch.m., 2016, Jersey Town—Deli Lama, by Langfuhr. Bred by Cynthia O'Bannon; owned by Cynthia E. McKee; trained by John D. McKee. $75,000 **Original Gold S**, 7 fur., registered accredited WV-bred F&M, 3&up, Charles Town, April 17.

DOOR BUSTER, b.f., 2018, Speightster—Miss Henny Penny, by Half Ours. Bred by Catherine K. Jennings & Scott Mallory; owned by Jay A. Reese; trained by Ollie L. Figgins III. $75,000 **Its Binn Too Long S**, 4½ fur., registered accredited WV-bred 3YO fillies, Charles Town, May 1.

GOLDEN KEY, ch.g., 2018, Uncle Lino—Golden Debutante, by Malibu Moon. Bred by Francis W. Daniel III & Ronney W. Brown; owned & trained by Ronney W. Brown. $75,000 **Coin Collector S**, 4½ fur., registered accredited WV-bred 3YO, Charles Town, May 8.

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Uncle Vinny

Uncle Vinny gets first winner

Uncle Vinny, a son of champion Uncle Mo who moved to Pennsylvania from Florida for the 2020 season, got his first winner at Belterra Park May 4.

Florida-bred Uncle Charming, a 3-year-old from Uncle Vinny's first crop, battled for the lead for the first half of the 1-mile maiden race over a sloppy track, dug in down the stretch and won by a half length. The dark bay gelding, owned by Mila Mullens and Blazing Meadows Farm and trained by Tim Hamm, was bred by Good Beginnings Farm out of the winning mare Charming Peggy, by Personal First.

Uncle Vinny, 8, stands at Rodney Eckenrode's Equistar Training and Breeding in Annville, Pa., for $2,500 live foal, payable when the foal stands and nurses. He won Saratoga's Grade 3 Sanford and placed in the Grade 1 Hopeful as a 2-year-old and earned $224,500 in a dozen starts.

Out of the stakes-winning Untuttable mare Arealhotlover, Uncle Vinny is a half-brother to two stakes performers.

Of his seven first-crop foals, six have started. He has six foals in his second crop.

Weave It to Me, now in Virginia, gets first winners

Breeder, owner and trainer Leslie Condon stood the impeccably bred Weave It to Me, a son of champion Bernardini from the family of leading sires Pulpit, Tale of the Cat and Johannesburg, at her Charles Town, W.Va., farm and had a number of his foals in training before a motorcycle accident claimed her life in August 2020.

Her close friends Nancy Camp and Sherry Lee Jackson took over the horses in training, and since the first of the year have sent two 4-year-old sons from Weave It to Me's first crop to their first wins—Weave It Quixote in a Charles Town maiden special weight in January, and Weaving You Behind in an April maiden claimer. The stallion had three starters from 15 registered foals through May 12.

Weave It to Me was ridden over jumps in 2015 after his retirement from the track and before being purchased by Condon. Virginia sport-horse breeder Fred Cooper found Weave It to Me on Condon's Facebook page in 2019, was interested in the breeding possibilities and stepped up to purchase the stallion, along with a mare in foal to him, after the owner's death. Now standing at Cooper's F C Show Horses in Petersburg, Va., south of Richmond, 13-year-old Weave It to Me has been bred to sport horses and Thoroughbred mares since the move.

A winning half-brother to multiple graded stakes winner and two-time track record setter Fed Biz, an earner of $770,496, and three-quarter-brother to stakes winner Spun Silk (by A.P. Indy), dam of Vosburgh Stakes-G1 winner Joking, Weave It to Me is out of the stakes-winning Wild Again mare Spunoutacontrol. He stands for $1,500 live foal.

Top Mid-Atlantic sires of 2021

Based on 2021 earnings through May 11

(D-deceased; R-retired)

General earnings

Sire	*rnrs*	*wnrs*	*earnings*
Wicked Strong (Pa)	109	34	$1,177,125
Jump Start (Pa-D)	83	25	1,161,937
Fiber Sonde (WV)	68	26	780,539
Great Notion (Md)	48	15	738,892
Windsor Castle (WV-D)	64	29	722,584
Golden Lad (Md)	47	18	718,472
Poseidon's Warrior (Pa)	54	23	701,666
Bandbox (Md-D)	38	17	678,069
El Padrino (Pa-D)	54	17	639,601
Warrior's Reward (Pa)	83	17	549,993
Super Ninety Nine (Md)	33	15	526,684
Friesan Fire (Md)	45	19	485,291
Bourbon Courage (Md)	38	11	466,805
Imagining (Md)	37	13	465,440
Weigelia (Pa)	29	11	444,185

Second-crop sires

Sire	*rnrs*	*wnrs*	*earnings*
Mosler (Md)	29	9	$360,960
Uncle Lino (Md)	21	7	315,581
Social Inclusion (Pa)	14	3	118,653
Barbados (Md)	2	2	99,521
Peace and Justice (Pa)	8	1	63,138

Lifetime earnings

Southern Hemisphere statistics not included

Sire	*rnrs*	*wnrs*	*earnings*
Not For Love (Md-D)	846	685	$81,449,871
Jump Start (Pa-D)	744	557	65,907,943
Petionville (Md-R)	679	527	45,916,585
Orientate (Md-R)	638	495	45,679,183
Smarty Jones (Pa)	431	323	39,378,345
Louis Quatorze (Md-D)	646	473	36,700,379
Swiss Yodeler (WV-R)	614	453	30,940,389
Defrere (NJ-D)	443	317	30,575,856
Outflanker (Md)	448	335	30,126,131
Lite the Fuse (Pa-R)	429	327	26,663,209
Waquoit (Md-D)	482	366	26,226,503
Warrior's Reward (Pa)	441	311	25,480,713
Limehouse (WV)	379	297	25,362,318
Great Notion (Md)	306	232	24,650,899
Partner's Hero (Pa)	376	256	22,252,764
Windsor Castle (WV-D)	315	257	19,454,046
Albert the Great (Pa-R)	326	235	18,366,805
Fiber Sonde (WV)	209	166	15,115,242
Exclusive Quality (WV-D)	284	212	14,663,413
Friesan Fire (Md)	189	137	12,941,754

Lifetime by number of stakes winners

Sire	*rnrs*	*wnrs*	*SW*
Not For Love (Md-D)	846	685	91
Jump Start (Pa-D)	744	557	75
Orientate (Md-R)	638	495	51
Petionville (Md-R)	679	527	51
Louis Quatorze (Md-D)	646	473	41
Smarty Jones (Pa)	431	323	35
Swiss Yodeler (WV-R)	614	453	32
Waquoit (Md-D)	482	366	32
Great Notion (Md)	306	232	30
Warrior's Reward (Pa)	441	311	28

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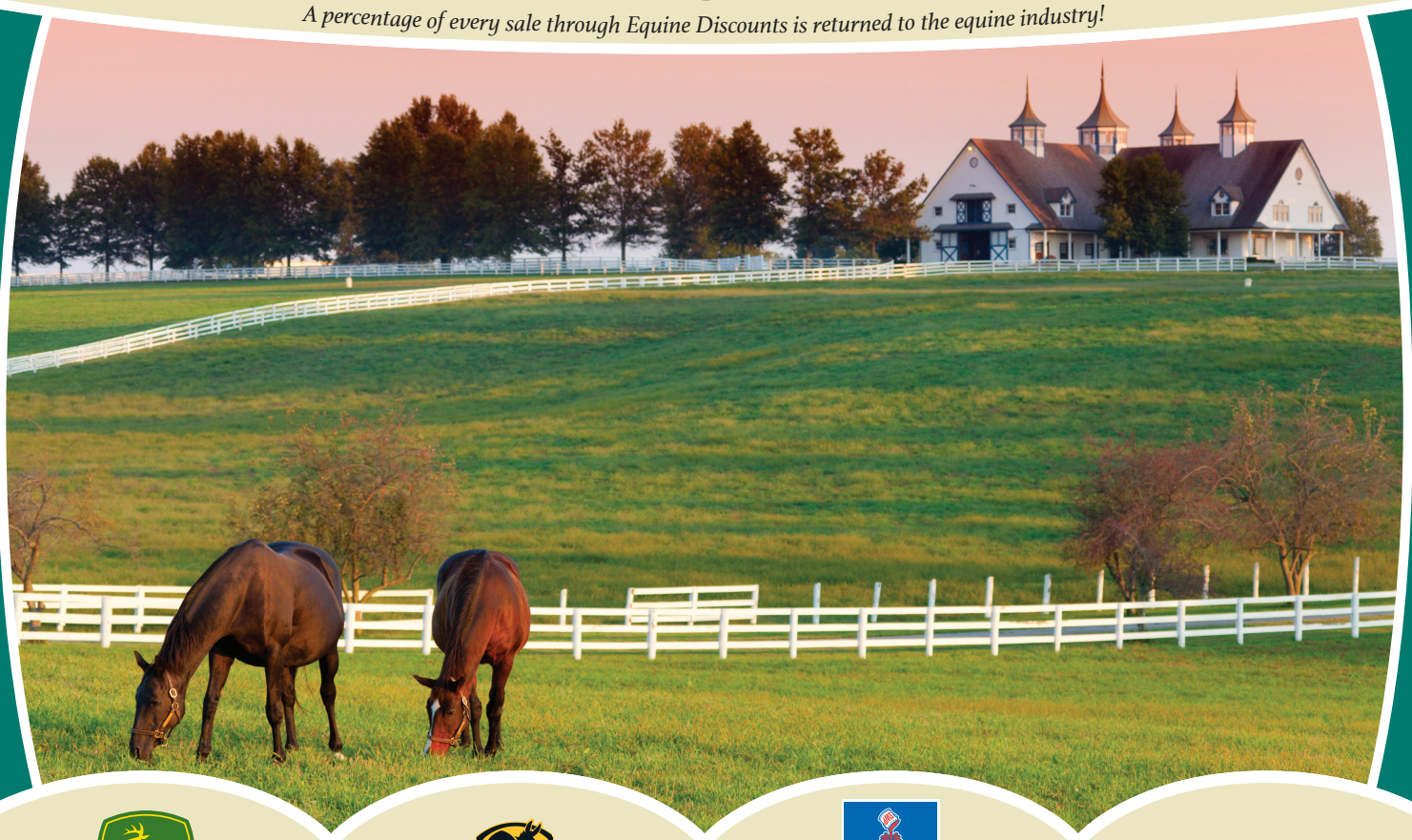

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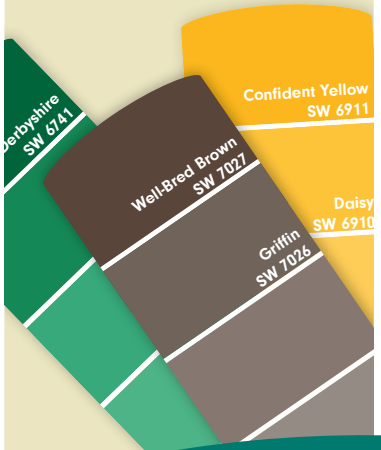

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Like That

Snap Decision runs winning streak to eight with Temple Gwathmey tally

BY SEAN CLANCY. PHOTOGRAPHS BY DOUGLAS LEES

Graham Watters shouted to Jamie Bargary moments after winning the Grade 2 Temple Gwathmey Hurdle Handicap with Snap Decision at Middleburg Spring Races May 1.

"This is why you come to America," Watters, here since 2017, said to Bargary, who arrived the day before.

Part of a two-decade trend of Irish and British jockeys revitalizing and sometimes discovering careers in American steeplechasing, Watters got the call of his lifetime this winter when 13-time champion trainer Jack Fisher needed a first-call jockey to replace Michael Mitchell who decided to stay in England after a stellar four-year stint here.

"Who rides Snap?" Watters asked when Fisher asked.

"You."

"I'll see you in the morning."

Champion novice hurdler of 2019 with seven consecutive wins by a combined 61 lengths, yeah, Snap Decision will make you alter your morning plans.

Watters guided (was guided) through his introduction at Middleburg, finding a comfortable spot in the middle of the six-horse field, taking over at will and gallivanting to a 9-length score over recent import Razoul (Ire) and Amschel (GB). Bred by Phipps Stable and owned by Bruton Street-US, Snap Decision increased his winning streak to eight while handling open company for the second time in his career.

"You wouldn't get to ride this work in Ireland or England," Watters said to Bargary as Snap Decision careened up the Glenwood Park hill to the winner's celebration.

Aboard for the first time in a race, Watters was impressed and surprised by the afternoon Snap.

"Much different. He settled beautifully, stepping into graded company, they went a much better gallop and that suited him, he's looked keen in the past, he settled beautifully, jumped fantastic, when everybody else was stopping for breathers four out, I was just cruising," Watters said. "A totally different ballpark, a feeling I never thought I would get, it's unbelievable, amazing, I was blown away with him, how much he can do and how little he was doing underneath me, with his ears pricked. You're sitting on a different animal. He's not a horse."

Purchased from the Phipps Stable for $75,000, Snap Decision finished second in his first two hurdle starts (spring 2019) but hasn't lost since–stringing together a Monmouth Park maiden, Saratoga allowance, Belmont Park novice stakes, Far Hills novice stakes to close that year and picking up to win three stakes (one in open company and two Saratoga novices) in 2020. He's firmly in the open division now, and added the historic Gwathmey to push his steeplechase earnings to $308,400.

Watters, 29, tested America over a spring weekend in 2017. It was a weekend when everything changed in the American

Snap Decision and Graham Watters land the last in the Temple Gwathmey at Middleburg.

FUELED BY The Mill

jocks' room. Five-time champion jockey Paddy Young suffered a head injury at Radnor, he would never ride another race. Watters stepped in and won a handicap on Invocation (Fr) and the Grade 3 National Hunt Cup aboard Jamarjo (Ire). Watters wound up riding seven races that weekend, went home and packed up. Four months later, he and fiancé, Rosie Allen, were here to stay. Watters won six races in 2018, four in 2019, five in an injury-shortened 2020 while spackling and sparring for spare rides from his Maryland base.

"I had a fantastic year, 2014-15, I had 25 winners, I won a listed race, my claim went down from 5 to 3, but the opportunities dried up. You couldn't earn a living for yourself, that's why I ended up here," Watters said. "In England, you move there for the opportunity, it's less money but it's more opportunity. You're going in schooling, they're not paying you to school, there's a day's wages lost, they're not giving you rides anyway, what do you do?"

You cancel your lease, sort a visa, sell your Vauxhall, book a one-way ticket to America and hope for an opportunity. For Watters, those opportunities came incrementally–Leslie and Paddy Young, owner Alex Leventhal, trainers Cyril Murphy, Neil Morris and eventually Fisher and Snap Decision.

"Since we moved here, it took us a few years to get on our feet, but we love it," Watters said. "I had an idea to be second jockey behind Mikey but when he decided not to come back, Jack asked if I wanted to be the main guy. I was there the next day. I think I've earned more prize money already this year than last year."

Yeah. The total was $56,050 last year, $123,750 and counting this year.

A double at Queen's Cup to open the hurdle season April 24 helped those coffers.

Watters partnered Gostisbehere to win a maiden claimer and Brianbakescookies to win the featured Queen's Cup MPC Chase for owner Gillian Johnston. Making his stakes debut, the son of Giant's Causeway found a sweet spot in the $35,000 novice stakes before rolling to a 17-length romp over Family Tree (GB).

"I can't take any credit for that. I just jumped off and gave him a ride, holy crap, I jumped the last on the backside and said, 'Let's go,' he exploded. I went by the leader like he was standing still," Watters said two weeks before Middleburg. "It takes a lot of pressure off to get the ball rolling, I'll have just a bit more confidence riding Snap, to sit and wait. It definitely helps to get the ball rolling."

Like a bowling ball down a freshly polished lane.

"Look, I've been riding for 15 years," Watters said. "I've ridden plenty of winners in England and Ireland but it feels like those 15 years are paying off now."

Mystic Strike (left), leading in the early going over Super Saturday, found good luck and his seventh career timber win in the Middleburg Hunt Cup after two mishaps earlier in the spring.

■ Mystic Strike made up for bad luck in his first two starts of the season to win the Middleburg Hunt Cup for Upland Partners, trainer Todd McKenna and jockey Tom Garner May 1. The 12-year-old slipped on the flat in his first at My Lady's Manor and pulled up after the first fence when jockey Chris Gracie's stirrup leather broke at the Grand National.

Garner put the son of Smart Strike on the lead in the 3¼-mile stakes to win by 4¼ lengths over former champion Zanjabeel (GB) in his timber debut.

"I'm just happy for the horse," McKenna said. "Twice I led him back to the barn and he was like, 'What happened?' I was like, 'Sorry, buddy, not today.'"

■ Marylanders Mark Beecher and Todd Wyatt won three early races to tie Fisher for second in the standings, one win behind Kathy Neilson after seven meets. Wyatt produced promising maiden Withoutdestination (GB) to win his hurdle debut at Middleburg. Owned by Charlie Fenwick, the import impressed Watters while overcoming a claim of foul by jockey Arch Kingsley on runner-up Sherkali (Ire).

"He ran great," Watters said. "I was very happy with him, his first time under rules, greenness, he landed in front but didn't want to go ahead and they did some bumping, I was very happy to see him go and win while showing so much greenness. He's a nice horse going forward."

Former amateur rider Beecher continued a solid start to his training career, winning with Maryland-bred Road to Oz, flat stakes winner My Afleet and course specialist Invocation (Fr). Watters guided My Afleet to win the maiden timber at Willowdale.

"Mark is showing his form as a trainer, he's as good as when he was a rider," Watters said. "I rode him in the steeplethon last year and he said he was a little bit short, I was third on him that day. This time, Mark said, 'I owe you a winner on him, I have him spot on for you today.' He was dead right. Super cool. Super fun horse."

■ Virginia-bred Eryx graduated at Middleburg, cruising to a 6-length score over Bickley and Riendo. Owned and bred by Sara Collette and trained by Madison Meyers, the son of Xenodon (also owned and bred by Collette) pulled apprentice Dylan McDonagh to the front after two fences and poured on the coals from there.

"The plan was to let him jump his way into the race. And that's exactly what he did," Meyers said. "If all goes well, we'll look toward Colonial this summer. Mrs. Collette likes to support Virginia meets and he's run well there in the past." ■

Laredo to Guthrie

In an earlier column I wrote about some of my experiences traveling around Texas with Clay Murray of the Texas Thoroughbred Breeders. This was in the spring of 1994, 1995 and 1996. It was after Dixie and I got out of the business of standing stallions and before the great influx of mares to Pennsylvania that resulted from the introduction of slot machines at our racetracks. I had some time on my hands and the pay was good.

Fasig-Tipton provided logistical and technical support to the TTBA in helping stage an annual yearling sale in Fort Worth and I was helping Mason Grasty inspect yearlings nominated for the select session of the sale. Clay and I would spend about three weeks driving and, on occasion, flying all over Texas and Oklahoma visiting farms from El Paso in the far southwest to Guthrie in northern Oklahoma.

Laredo is almost as far south as you can go in Texas, on the southern border. A tremendous amount of America's imports and exports cross the Rio Grande in trucks on the Friendship Bridge. Not far from the bridge, on Old Mines Road, hidden behind Anita's Restaurant, a truck stop, a feed store and a tack shop and surrounded by freight-forwarding warehouses is El Primero Training. This dry and dusty corner of Texas is home to some of the finest horses in the world. El Primero, you see, is the headquarters of the Asmussen family's far-flung Thoroughbred empire.

Under the direction of Keith and Marilyn Asmussen, this 360-stall training center, with its impeccably maintained training track, prepares the young horses and rehabs the older ones with which their son Steve is poised, later this summer, to become the winningest trainer in North American history. When he wins his 9,446th race he will pass Dale Baird and achieve that milestone.

All of this is accomplished in a place as far removed as you could imagine from the rolling green hills and black-painted fences of Lexington or the twin spires in Louisville. El Primero consists of six barns each with 60 stalls. Each barn has four hot-walkers and a covered round pen and the 1-mile track is as meticulously maintained as are the horses. On the two occasions when I visited in May 1994 and 1995, the yearlings we saw could have entered the sales ring that afternoon. Despite the barren surroundings, these are horsemen of the highest order.

In 1995 I made an inspection tour of Oklahoma accompanied by Brock Sheridan, editor of the TTBA's monthly magazine. Clay had other business to attend and Brock was doing an article about the selection process. As we drove north from Dallas toward Oklahoma City, I noticed a strange thing. Many of the towns bore the same names as the towns along the posh Philadelphia Main Line. There was Overbrook, Wynnewood, Ardmore, Wayne and Paoli. Having grown up near Paoli, I had often ridden the train into Philadelphia and was intimately familiar with the namesakes of these Oklahoma towns.

This couldn't be coincidence and, with a little research, I discovered that the Irish workmen who built the Pennsylvania railroad that became the Main Line, were moved, en masse, to Oklahoma to build the railroad from Oklahoma City to Dallas. They settled there and named their towns after those in Pennsylvania.

On April 19, 1995, the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City was bombed by anti-government terrorists. The blast killed 168 people and injured 680 others. The site became a shrine to the memory of the victims. In May, the bombing was in the news and as we did our inspections around Oklahoma it was very much on my mind. As we approached the city, where we were scheduled to spend the night, I asked Brock if it would be ghoulish to go and see the site. With relief, he told me that he had been thinking about it all day but, like I, had been reluctant to ask. We decided to visit and were glad that we did.

The entire front of the building was gone and all of the surrounding buildings had sustained extensive damage. The chain link fence around the wreckage had become a spontaneous memorial to the victims with flowers, pictures, poems, and prayers placed there by those mourning their loved ones. Until I saw the 9-11 Memorial in New York, I have never been more moved.

On May 3, 1996, while traveling between farms in Oklahoma, Clay and I passed through a crossroad hamlet called Grindstone. We hardly gave it a thought. The next day was Derby Day and we were excited about the prospect of watching the Derby on the simulcast at Remington Park, an eight-year-old facility neither of us had visited.

We finished our inspections early on Saturday and got to Remington in time to watch a few live races. Unbridled's Song was the 7-2 Derby favorite, but another son of Unbridled–Grindstone–edged Cavonnier in a classic D. Wayne Lukas/Bob Baffert matchup.

Of course, neither Clay nor I had bet the winner even though we had been in Grindstone, Okla., the previous day.

Grindstone paid $13.80 and we cried all the way back to Austin. ✹

beyond the wire
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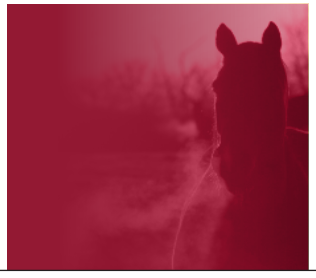

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Where are they now?

Looking back on MHBA yearling show stars

Dana Wimpfheimer

Last year's Yearling Show Champion Where's Bridgit was in Florida before shipping out to Saratoga.

For 86 years, the Maryland Horse Breeders Association's Yearling Show has served as a steppingstone for Maryland-bred yearlings. The months spent preparing and the trip to the show itself serve as experience for all participants, laying the groundwork before they head off to the sales ring or early training.

Though many were nameless when they made their trips around the show ring, and not all won ribbons, alumni such as Safely Kept, Smart Angle, Cathryn Sophia, Sharing, Project Whiskey and Declan's Moon went on to become stakes winners, graded stakes winners and beyond, all the way to the Hall of Fame (in Safely Kept's case).

This year's show, Sunday, Aug. 1 at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium, will continue the tradition with Grade 1-winning trainer Gary Contessa to judge.

Writer Sara Gordon caught up with some recent participants.

Class of 2020

Champion: Where's Bridgit

Quality over quantity rang true at the 2020 show, held in late July with Covid-19 protocols in place, as Sabrina Moore's only entry became her first class winner and champion, selected by Michael Matz.

The Bernardini filly out of the multiple stakes-winning Not For Love mare Mystic Love was bred by Green-

Mount Farm, co-owned and managed by Moore, in partnership with Godolphin. Just a few months after the show, the bay filly was shipped to Lexington, Ky., for Fasig-Tipton's selected yearlings showcase in September. StarLadies and Mathis purchased her for $100,000 from the consignment of Bill Reightler.

"Frank Brothers is our main bloodstock agent and he loved her. I looked at her two or three times also and she was so professional, and she's very correct, and I just remember every time I went and looked at her she behaved so well and definitely had a bit of class," said Corbin Blumberg, a Potomac, Md., native hired as the racing manager of Starlight Racing/StarLadies Racing last spring after graduating from the Godolphin Flying Start program. "We sort of had a different model with the fillies this year, so we were trying to buy some well-bred fillies with some value going forward. Frank's big on behavior and making sure they have their feet on the ground and I'm sure it was partly because of the show, she showed so well."

Recognizing the Maryland connection between Blumberg and the filly, StarLadies' founder and managing partner Laurie Wolf allowed Blumberg to name her after his mother, Bridgit, while also paying homage to stakes winner Bridget's Big Luvy (Tiz Wonderful), produced by the filly's granddam Memories of Mystic.

"Where's Bridgit" was inspired by Blumberg's mother's travels to exotic locations around the world.

The filly is starting to become a frequent traveler herself, spending time at Payton Training Center in Ocala, Fla., for early training with J.J. Pletcher and Gerard Butler. In mid-March she was shipped to Pletcher's son Todd at Palm Beach Downs in Delray Beach, Fla.

"She's been remarkably straightforward and she's done everything right so far. Gerard just basically kept saying if she's like Bernardini then maybe we should slow her down, it's sort of a two-turn pedigree and all that and she just sort of put her head forward and charged on," said Blumberg. "She was our first filly to work and first filly to ship out, and she's still got that very nice attitude."

Maggie Kimmitt

The 2020 Reserve Champion Whenigettoheaven is in Mike Trombetta's barn at Fair Hill looking towards a June debut.

Where's Bridgit was set to ship to Saratoga mid-May, where she'll train as the StarLadies team works out a plan for when she'll debut.

Reserve Champion: Whenigettoheaven

Sometimes the back-up plan is better than the original. That was the case with Whenigettoheaven, who got the yearling show call when breeder Larry Johnson's original choice developed an abscess.

The "substitute" was a bay colt by Johnson's Street Magician later named Whenigettoheaven, who won his class and reserve champion honors. Coming from a long line of homebreds, starting with multiple stakes-winning dam Heaven Knows What and tracing back to Johnson's foundation mare Ran's Chick, the colt was the ideal representation of a family Johnson takes great pride in.

"It's a family that I've been very fortunate with and I just wasn't sure how the market would be last year, particularly with Covid-19, and it was a horse that I liked and I didn't think I'd get what I thought was his value so I decided to keep him, which is what I do with most of my horses," said Johnson.

The colt returned home to Johnson's Legacy Farm in Bluemont, Va., where he was broken, eased into early training and worked in the gate before shipping to trainer Mike Trombetta's barn at Fair Hill Training Center in March.

"He's got a terrific mind and at this point he's done nothing wrong," said Johnson. "We obviously haven't pushed on him hard, that's coming soon, but at this time I continue to be optimistic that he's going to do quite well for us. The hard part is yet to come, so I hope he continues to move forward."

Whenigettoheaven has breezed on the dirt and the all-weather track at Fair Hill, which had Johnson hoping for a June debut.

Class II winner: Carnegie Hall

Carnegie Hall continued his family's tradition of yearling show participation, as he was the seventh consecutive foal produced by Dark Hollow Farm-bred Dream to show, while becoming the first to win a class. The son of Maclean's Music, the bay colt was part of a 1-2-3 sweep by Dark Hollow-connected colts.

The win was a sentimental one for breeders/owners Dark Hollow, Dorsey Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Davidov and Mr. and Mrs. David Schwaber, as he was the last foal they bred out of Dream, a graded stakes-placed daughter of Malibu Moon sold in foal to City of Light for $170,000 at the 2019 Keeneland November sale.

Minor health issues kept Carnegie Hall out of the sales ring at first, but the familial ties squashed the idea entirely.

"He had just a couple minor issues, a little debris in the knee that had to be cleaned up," said David Hayden, who co-owns and operates Dark Hollow with his wife JoAnn. "We think a lot of the horse, we think a lot of the family and we just didn't want to compromise him. We figured we would take the best care possible of him because we want to make the family. We sold the mare, but we have two of his half-sisters that we're retaining as broodmares."

Carnegie Hall went to Middleburg Training Center in Middleburg, Va., to start early training with Madison Meyers and Kieran Norris and get Virginia-certified. Once he completes his certification, which takes six months, he'll return to Maryland in late October

or early November and start training with Trombetta.

Class III winner: Fashionista

Johnson's homebred filly by Street Magician held her own among 16 others in Class III, for fillies by Maryland sires. The daughter of Johnson's homebred stakes-winning mare A Lover's Question, also a descendant of his foundation mare Ran's Chick, went from show ring to Fasig-Tipton Midlantic sales ring, where she was purchased by Ferris Allen for $14,000 in October.

"We look at every yearling that's there because we're kind of looking for a horse that may slip through the cracks. We're very strict on conformation and appearance-wise, and this filly stood out, she was just a beautiful physical right on first look," said Allen. "Then when that happens, we make sure we cycle back around and haven't missed anything. And when we cycled back around, she moved up even further on our list, and somewhere along the line it was mentioned that she had won her class at the yearling show, which didn't surprise me."

Co-owned by Allen and his daughter Jane, Fashionista spent some downtime at Jane's Warwick Equine Services in Ellicott City, and later John McDaniel's Hickory Ridge Farm in Highland, which Jane leases.

The chestnut filly, already Virginia-certified, went to Woodberry Payne's Ingleside Training Center in Montpelier Station, Va., to be broken and returned to Allen's barn at Laurel Park in early March. She'd been preparing to breeze before training was shut down due to issues with the main track.

"We're taking horses to Pimlico but her progress has without question been delayed by the Laurel mess, because she's a big, strapping filly and she was just ready to start breezing," said Allen. "We're not going to cart her back and forth to Pimlico to do that, so we'll just take a little more time with her and do that a little more sensibly."

Jim McCue

Reserve Champion in 2019, Dream Big Dreams won in March.

Class of 2019

Dream Big Dreams

The 2019 MHBA Yearling Show was a win on all fronts for Ellen Charles' Hillwood Stables, as her Bandbox colt out of the Quiet American mare Buffgirl won the first class and was selected as reserve champion by judge Mike Stidham.

The colt went to the sales ring at Timonium twice–fetching $35,000 from Cary Frommer as a yearling and $115,000 from Chuck Zacney as a 2-year-old. The gray colt's parents were purchased by Hillwood at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic, Bandbox as a yearling in 2009 and Buffgirl as a 2-year-old in 2010.

"I kind of knew him because I saw him at the sale as a yearling and we didn't purchase him, and then he went to the 2-year-old sale last year and I was always kind of sweet on him," said Brittany Russell, who trains the colt for Zacney's Cash is King and partner LC Racing. "I had a client that was looking for some Maryland-breds and we had a couple horses sort of on our radar and he was one of them."

Named Dream Big Dreams, the colt started breezing at Laurel Park in August and finished second in his debut in December.

"He's so laid back, he has a fantastic attitude about everything and he likes to train. From day one he's come in and he's just gone about his business," said Russell. "You would think he'd be a little immature early on because he's kind of a big horse but he seems to be putting things together."

He became a winner in March at Laurel, rallying from well back early going 1 mile, and was entered Preakness weekend in May.

Jerry's Turn

The late Bob Manfuso bred the Class II winner, a chestnut colt by Girolamo out of Manfuso's homebred More Than Ready mare Get Set Go, who went on to sell for $90,000 to Sea Gull Capital at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall sale.

"I was agent for Patrick Welsh, the owner of Sea Gull Capital, and I picked him out and sent him to [Craig Wheeler Thoroughbreds in Reddick, Fla.] to be broken. I really liked him, he's a really handsome horse," said trainer Tim Hills. "He was a very forward horse all the time. He wanted to train hard, and if anything did too much."

Fifth in his debut last July at Monmouth, Jerry's Turn took a nearly six-month break before he returned as a 3-year-old in January to finish fourth at Gulfstream Park. He's made three more starts, with his best finish a third going 7 furlongs at Gulfstream in March.

After two tries on the dirt and three on the turf, at various distances, Jerry's Turn is still figuring out what he prefers.

"I think we're going to try him long on the dirt. We may put him in main-track-only on the turf and pray for rain, but definitely long on the dirt," said Hills. "He's in Florida now but he's heading north soon. He hasn't had the best trips but we still like him a lot, he's just a good-feeling colt with a really good attitude."

If the opportunity presented itself, Hills was hoping to try Jerry's Turn at Pimlico in May.

Jerry's Turn is a fifth-generation Manfuso-bred, tracing to Sailing Leader, a daughter of Mr. Leader purchased by Manfuso for $11,500 at the 1985 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December sale. The colt's granddam is graded stakes winner Belterra (Unbridled), a half-sister to multiple graded stakes winner Royal Haven, who produced stakes winner Taketheodds, stakes-placed Mine Not Mine and Sheave, dam of Grade 1-winning millionaire Cathryn Sophia.

Class of 2018

Be Good

Another Hillwood homebred by Bandbox, the gray filly out of the Scrimshaw mare Dearie Be Good won the third class and the reserve championship, selected by judge Rick Violette, and now carries the Hillwood silks at Laurel Park.

"She's well-mannered, she always was," said trainer Rodney Jenkins. "She surprised me with the speed she's got. I just watched her gallop and she never showed me she'd be as quick as she is, so it was a complete surprise the first time I worked her. I have nothing bad to say about her–she's a nice filly, big, good size, we expect nice things from her."

After three losses at 3, she broke through with a maiden win at Laurel in January. The 4-year-old filly has since moved up to allowance company, with two third-place finishes in three tries.

"She'll go in an allowance race in her next start with a condition on it, that's where I plan to run her. She's doing real well, we'll see where she goes from here," said Jenkins, whose barn has several Hillwood homebreds. "She's ab-

solutely a doll baby, she's a very quiet filly," he said. "I think the people that raise them do a good job, my job is pretty easy when I get them. They're sound, young horses and all good-mannered horses, that helps."

Project Whiskey

The flashy dark bay filly by Tapizar and the Malibu Moon mare Over the Moon, bred by Dark Hollow Farm, shined as the winner of Class IV, but she was just getting started.

Purchased by Zacney for $35,000 at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic a few months after the yearling show, Project Whiskey finished third twice at Saratoga in 2019, won a maiden special and a stakes at Parx Racing before a big breakthrough last summer at Delaware Park.

Sent off at 38-1 in the Delaware Oaks-G3, she won by a half-length over Dream Marie. Project Whiskey followed with a second in the Monmouth Oaks-G3 before three stakes losses to close the year–and her career.

"Then she went to the deep water and tailed off a little bit, so we gave her a break," said Zacney. "We actually had a discussion to figure out what we should do and we decided to breed her."

Project Whiskey was bred early to Nyquist, and she is due in January or February of next year.

"We love her, she's got a lot of accolades, she looks terrific, and we just thought that would be the best avenue to take, to breed her, and we were able to get into Nyquist so we're very excited about the next couple years with her," said Zacney.

Class of 2017

Saltworks

Chanceland Farm homebreds swept the 83rd annual yearling show, as Dale Romans crowned a bay colt by Noble Mission (GB) out of Speightstown mare Island Bound champion and a bay filly by Bullsbay out of the Mineshaft mare Sheave reserve champion.

The filly, later named Saltworks, had big shoes to fill as a younger half-sister of Cathryn Sophia, who did not even place in her class in 2015 but went on to win the 2016 Kentucky Oaks-G1, and earn $1,229,720.

Campaigned by Manfuso, her breeder, and trained by his partner Katy Voss, Saltworks finished third in her debut and won her second start. She made her third start in a 6-furlong allowance on Black-Eyed Susan Day 2019 at Pimlico. The typically loaded field included future graded stakes winner Majestic Reason and horses from Todd Pletcher and Bob Baffert and Saltworks wound up fifth.

"She tried hard . . . but she came out of the race a little worse for wear," said Voss. "Jammed up like a lot of horses were back then, some bruising, so she had time off."

Returned for another fifth in July, Saltworks missed the rest of her 3-year-old season and returned the following winter.

"Poor filly, I had her back in on New Year's Day and there was a screw up in the barn and we had to scratch her," said Voss. "Then there was no race for her for three weeks, so I ran her out of her condition just to get a race under her and she tried hard, so then ran her back in her race and she finished third, but she needed to go long. She was going to go long the next time and that's when Covid-19 hit."

With racing shut down and a promising filly on hold, Voss considered her options and chose the breeding shed.

The initial plan was a date with The Factor, but Voss couldn't get to him, so she opted for Air Force Blue, another son of War Front. The maiden mare closed out Chanceland's 2021 foaling season with a colt April 19, bringing the farm's tally to 12 fillies and three colts.

"He's lovely and she's a great mother. Absolutely the instant she had him she knew what to do," said Voss. "She's a beautiful mare, she's got the most gorgeous head you've ever seen."

Saltworks will go back to Country Life Farm's Divining Rod.

Class of 2016

Southampton Way

Among 115 participants, a filly by Into Mischief and the Not For Love mare Roadtohanna stood above the rest, according to judge John Servis. After topping Class IV, she earned Sagamore Farm its second championship in four years.

"There were nice sprinter-type horses in there, but that's not the kind of horse I like or look for," Servis said after the show. "I like a big, rangy, two-turn looking horse and that was her. She had a lot of the things that I like. She looked very athletic. She had a couple of little flaws that I felt as a horse trainer I could overlook, as nice as she was."

Her success in the ring directly correlated with her talents on the track, as she made six starts as a 2-year-old and one as a 3-year-old for Sagamore, breaking her maiden at Saratoga and scoring back-to-back seconds in the 2017 Adirondack-G2 and Arlington-Lassie Washington stakes. After attempts in the Miss Grillo-G3 and Spendthrift Juvenile Filly Stallion, she made one final start in an allowance at Laurel in June 2018 before she was retired and consigned to the 2018 Keeneland November sale.

Her time away from her home state was short-lived, as David Wade signed the $300,000 ticket for Sycamore Hall Farm's Richard Golden.

"We had a plan of adding a quality broodmare prospect to the broodmare band each year and Into Mischief was one of the sires we were targeting, we didn't have a daughter of Into Mischief at the time. So I went down to the sale and I actually fell in love with her. I felt pretty fortunate to get her for $300,000," said Wade. "She's got a great Maryland family, if you look at the sires in her family with Not For Love, Lord Gaylord and Shelter Half, and going back to that third dam . . . it's just a quality Maryland family all the way through."

Southampton Way was the seventh foal out of the Not For Love mare Roadtohanna, a daughter of the Virginia-bred mare December Ember. Bred by Mr. and Mrs. Charles McGinnes, Roadtohanna is also the dam of graded-stakes-placed Tell a Great Story and Give No Quarter, along with stakes-placed All I Karabout. Southampton Way's third dam is multiple stakes winning Gala de Oro, bred in Maryland by G & L Enterprises, who produced stakes-placed Prosperous de Oro and Golden Ode. Gala de Oro's dam Gala Goldie, a daughter of Jungle Savage bred by Glade Valley Farms, also produced stakes winners Gala Goldilocks and Gala Gold Digger, and stakes-placed Gala Gold Dust and Gala Goldie's Best.

Southampton Way stayed in Kentucky after the sale and was bred to Speightstown before returning to Maryland in August 2019. She delivered a colt in April 2020.

"I don't know where she gets her size from–she's just a big, gorgeous mare, she's 16.2, and you kind of wouldn't expect that from being an Into Mischief and then looking at the sires in her family, but that's one of the reasons we picked Speightstown to send her to to start out with," said Wade. "Speightstown a lot of times can get foals that are big in the body and somewhat short-legged, and this mare has got quite a bit of leg under her, and she's got a nice big foal . . . He's going to be a neat-looking Speightstown."

The colt is entered in this year's Keeneland September sale, while there's a good chance the mare's second foal, a filly by Constitution born April 20, will be kept and raced, though the decision will be made next year. In the meantime, Southampton Way will head to Kentucky where she'll be bred to Justify.

"She's one of my favorites here and she's just as sweet as she can be," said Wade. ❧

Maryland-bred Stakes Winners

Coady Photography

Jaxon Traveler steals show in Oaklawn's Bachelor Stakes

West Point Thoroughbreds and Marvin Delfiner's Jaxon Traveler returned to winning form in the $200,000 Bachelor Stakes at Oaklawn Park April 24.

Coming off his first loss, a second by a head in Oaklawn's Gazebo Stakes March 20, Jaxon Traveler was sent off as the 8-5 favorite in the Bachelor. He broke quickly from the fourth post, shot to the rail under Francisco Arrieta and ripped an opening quarter mile in :22:41. Extending his lead when hitting the half-mile mark in :45.89, the Steve Asmussen trainee won by 2¾ lengths over stablemate Cazadero. It was Asmussen's seventh Bachelor win, a list that includes Eclipse Award-winning sprinter Mitole.

The 3-year-old colt by Munnings finished 6 furlongs test in 1:10.07.

Jaxon Traveler won for the fourth time in five starts, a mark that began with three consecutive wins in Maryland–a Pimlico maiden in September, a Laurel Park allowance and the Maryland Juvenile Futurity at Laurel.

The champion Maryland-bred juvenile male of 2020 sold as a yearling for $80,000 at Keeneland September to Grassroots Training & Sales. He was pinhooked to the Ocala Breeders' Sales Company's April sale and purchased by West Point for $140,000. He raised his earnings to $270,762.

Bred by Dr. and Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau, Jaxon Traveler is the fourth winner from as many starters for his dam Listen Boy, a Sagamore Farm-bred daughter of After Market. The stakes-placed mare's fifth foal is 2-year-old filly Sullivan Street (by Street Boss), who started her early training for the Pineaus and will head to trainer Mary Eppler. Listen Boy delivered a colt by Cross Traffic Feb. 16 and was bred to Liam's Map. ❧

Laki returns with a vengeance in Laurel's Frank Whiteley

Call Laki a two-time winner of the $100,000 Frank Y. Whiteley Stakes after the Hillside Equestrian Meadows' colorbearer prevailed in a stretch duel at Pimlico April 24.

Laki chased Lebda through opening fractions of :23.33 and :45.55 and went for the lead heading into the stretch. Laki won by a half-length while stopping the clock for 6 furlongs in 1:09.33. Maryland-bred Eastern Bay was third.

"It's been a crazy month for all of us horsemen here in the state," said trainer Damon Dilodovico. "For him to do what he did, I just can't put it together. The last race we ran him [the General George-G3 Feb. 20] he was letting me know he wasn't 100 percent. Not unsound, he just has a way about him. So, the rest was definitely warranted and it paid off."

The 8-year-old gelding pushed his career earnings over the $800,000 mark with his 11th win. He kicked off 2021 with a fourth in the Fire Plug Stakes in January, followed by a third in the General George. He returned to the work tab in early April at Laurel, before making his final prep at Pimlico April 19.

"He means everything to us. . . the whole stable," Dilodovico said. "He's our cornerstone."

Debuting as a 3-year-old in November 2016 and breaking his maiden that December, the hard-knocking chestnut gelding has won a stakes each of the past five years, all at Laurel, and scored in Monmouth Park's Oceanport Centennial last July. In October, he recorded his first win at Pimlico, and his first in a graded stakes, in the Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash-G3, beating Eastern Bay by a nose, with Nitrous a nose back in third.

Over his 33-start career, Laki has contested 24 stakes, winning or placing in 16.

Bred by Tom Michaels and Lorna Baker out of the Swear by Dixie mare Truthful Dutch, Laki is his dam's only winner from four starters, out of six foals. Her youngest, a 3-year-old full-sister to Laki named Halia, has yet to start. ❧

V. I. P. Ticket delivers in Confucius Say Stakes

V. I. P. Ticket, a son of longtime leading West Virginia stallion Windsor Castle, made his third start of the season his best yet as he beat 9-year-old Mean Bean to win the $75,000 Confucius Say Stakes for registered/accredited West Virginia-breds by three-quarters of a length May 1 at Charles Town.

Third in last year's Confucius Say V. I. P. Ticket settled near the back of the pack as last year's winner and 1-2 favorite Penguin Power was pressured through the opening half-mile.

The favorite gave way as Mean Bean and V. I. P. Ticket took control in upper stretch and battled to the wire, with the Jeremiah O'Dwyer trainee edging away in the closing yards. The 5-year-old bay horse completed 7 furlongs in 1:27.31.

The multiple stakes winner has improved to 7-4-11 from 29 career starts, with $279,423 in earnings.

V. I. P. Ticket and his winning half-sister Award Wanted (a 4-year-old by Macho Uno) are his dam Touring Hong Kong's first two foals. The stakes-placed daughter of Cherokee's Boy has since produced Award Nominated, a 3-year-old colt by Buffum who has yet to start; the current yearling filly Touring Vouge, by Klimt; and a Biblical colt foaled March 31. ❧

See Charles Town report on page 44 for more.

Kobe's Back colt brings $375,000 at OBS April 2-year-olds sale

Tibor Szlavik

The first 2-year-old by Bonita Farm stallion Kobe's Back offered at auction sold for $375,000 to John Fort at the Ocala Breeders' record-breaking spring sale April 20-23 in Ocala, Fla.

Five Maryland-breds went through the ring with four selling, including two for six figures.

The gray/roan colt from the first crop of Kobe's Back, bred by Barak Farm and consigned by Mayberry Farm, Agent III, breezed an eighth in :09.80, tying for the co-fastest time on the final day of the under tack show. Walking into the ring late on the last day of the sale as Hip 1115 he was a pinhook home run–as a yearling last October he sold for $27,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall sale.

Out of the Mizzen Mast mare Miss Charades and now named Paper Mirror, the colt is a half-brother to multiple stakes-placed Deep Red (Algorithms); his second dam is graded stakes winner Silver Charades (by Broad Brush).

Kobe's Back, owned by CRK Stable, who campaigned him to win more than $1.1 million during a career in which the top-class sprinter won four graded stakes and placed in eight others, including three Grade 1s, stands for $3,000 in Darlington, Md.

On the first day at OBS a gray/roan Maryland-bred filly by Cupid out of the Songandaprayer mare Sensible Shoes was purchased for $100,000 by Jeffrey E. Mackor II, agent for Keith Johnston, after she breezed an eighth in :10.40. Consigned by RiceHorse Stable (Brandon and Ali Rice), the filly is from the family of Grade 1 winner Tango Dancer and was bred by Sherman Chin. She'd been through the ring twice before: selling as a weanling for $6,000 at the 2019 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December Mixed sale and was a $26,000 RNA at the Keeneland September Yearling sale.

The Maryland-breds sold for an average of $140,500, well above the overall sale's average of $114,108.

Rainbow Heir, new to Maryland for the 2021 breeding season, had two of his progeny (Hip 754 and Hip 841) sell for $130,000 a piece. Both are Florida-bred colts from his first crop.

The graded stakes-winning sprinter stands for an advertised fee of $2,000 at Shamrock Farm in Woodbine, Md.

Maryland Foal Report

BACKWARD GLANCE, by Flashback, gr./ro.c., March 31, by Force the Pass. Thornmar.

COMMUNION, by Pulpit, gr./ro.c., April 5, by Destin. Amy H. Daney Bloodstock. Mare to Blofeld.

COWGIRL CREED, by Sharp Humor, ch.c., March 24, by Catalina Cruiser. Maureen Wade.

DIBBLE DASH, by Jump Start, b.f., April 14, by Golden Lad. Mezza Luna Farm LLC. Mare to Holy Boss.

DICEY D J, by Milwaukee Brew, ch.c., April 16, by Irish War Cry. Thornmar. Mare to Golden Lad.

FEAR NO EVIL, by Line of David, b.c., March 25, by Sky Mesa. Randy L. Cohen and Alyse L. Cohen. Mare to English Channel.

GREAT START, by Jump Start, dk.b./br.c., March 27, by Golden Lad. Designated Hitters Racing LLC.

HAIL TO LEADER, by Cairo Prince, ch.c., April 3, by Biblical. MCA Racing. Mare to Biblical.

IN MY TIME, by Scat Daddy, ch.f., March 29, by Liam's Map. Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC.

LUCY BOO, by Rock Slide, b.c., April 6, by Barbados. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Rooney. Mare to Golden Lad.

MATTY'S SENSATION, by Stephen Got Even, ch.f., April 21, by Force the Pass. Wes Carter. Mare to Barbados.

MOTHERLOAD HIPSTER, by Dance With Ravens, ch.c., April 15, by Imagining. Dr. Ronald Harris Parker.

MYDRINKSELECTION, by Stay Thirsty, b.c., March 18, by Hoppertunity. Designated Hitters Racing LLC.

MY LITTLE JOSIE, by Outflanker, b.c., April 20, by Force the Pass. David DiPietro.

NOW I'M READY, by El Padrino, ch.c., April 1, by Bourbon Courage. Avalon Farm. Mare to Golden Lad.

ORINOQUIA, by Whywhywhy, gr./ro.f., April 15, by Frosted. The Elkstone Group. Mare to Hard Spun.

OUR FIRST GIRL, by War Front, gr./ro.c., March 1, by Kobe's Back. Randalia Farm. Mare to Madefromlucky.

PARADE OF COLORS, by Leading the Parade, ch.f., April 7, by Divining Rod. John E. Wil-

liamson III. Mare to Divining Rod.

PARADISE BIRD, by Summer Bird, ch.f., April 12, by Not This Time. Thornmar. Mare to Uncle Lino.

PERFECT MEASURE, by Wildcat Heir, ch.c., April 21, by Irish War Cry. Hamilton Smith.

PREYING MANTIS, by Medaglia d'Oro, gr./ro.c., April 2, by Cupid. Amy H. Daney Bloodstock. Mare to Speightster.

QUIET INFERNO, by Quiet American, b.c., April 19, by Speightster. Marathon Farms Inc. Mare to Paynter.

REALLY AND TRULY, by Pulpit, b.c., March 11, by Alternation. The Elkstone Group. Mare to Improbable.

SAUCY COUNTESS, by Tabasco Cat, dk.b./br.c., April 14, by Outflanker. Little Man Farm. Mare to Outflanker.

SCAURI, by Ghostzapper, dk.b./br.c., April 4, by Lookin At Lucky. The Elkstone Group. Mare to Maclean's Music.

SILVERTONGUEDIVA, by Arch, ch.f., April 12, by Barbados. Barak Farm.

SMART POLICY, by Smart Strike, b.f., April 1, by Goldencents. Timothy J. Rooney.

SOKIE, by Indian Charlie, ch.c., March 30, by Kantharos. The Elkstone Group. Mare to Kitten's Joy.

STREET WALTZ, by Street Cry (Ire), b.c., April 15, by Imagining. Mezza Luna Farm LLC. Mare to Imagining.

STRIKING BELLA, by Smart Strike, b.f., April 25, by Goldencents. Timothy J. Rooney.

TABLETS OF LOVE, by Liam's Map, dk.b./br.f., April 14, by West Coast. The Elkstone Group. Mare to First Samurai.

THEOGONY, by Curlin, ch.f., March 30, by Omaha Beach. The Elkstone Group. Mare to Street Boss.

TRUE SENSATION, by Itaka, b.c., February 18, by Temple City. Randy L. Cohen and Alyse L. Cohen. Mare to Get Stormy.

Anne Litz

Foal play: Holy Boss—What a Score colt and his pasture mate, a son of Long River out of Stolen Dance, discuss things at Frank Bonsal's Mantua Mill Farm.

UBU, by Silver Train, ch.f., April 12, by Gun Runner. Big Lick Farm.

WHAT A SCORE, by Terrell, ch.c., March 21, by Holy Boss. Frank A. Bonsal.

WHO NEEDS, by Montbrook, b.c., April 4, by Super Ninety Nine. Clover Hill Farm Inc. Mare to Divining Rod.

WILBURNMONEY, by Wilburn, gr./ro.c., April 8, by Creative Cause. The Elkstone Group. Mare to Liam's Map.

Maryland Fund Report

Bonuses paid for races at Maryland tracks
February 1 to February 28, 2021

Breeder bonuses

Linda L. Albert—MIT MAZEL: Feb. 25, 7th race, $2,205.

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc.—HINTING: Feb. 7, 9th race, $495.

James M. Anderson—ASBUILT: Feb. 7, 6th race, $2,100; Feb. 27, 2nd race, $907.50. ($3,007.50).

Lorna L. Baker and Thomas H. Michaels Jr.—LAKI: Feb. 20, 8th race, $1,375.

Barak Farm—JOHNNY SACK: Feb. 20, 2nd race, $4,702.50 STROLL SMOKIN: Feb. 15, 8th race, $2,467.50. ($7,170).

David Earl Baxter—HEMP: Feb. 20, 9th race, $5,700; Feb. 28, 9th race, $1,155. WALK IT OUT NANNY: Feb. 5, 1st race, $2,565. ($9,420).

William Bayne—D C FIREMAN: Feb. 27, 8th race, $2,137.50.

Karen Benshoff and Ronald Benshoff—MARYLANDER: Feb. 28, 6th race, $412.50.

Teresa L. Beste—DEMO DOCTOR: Feb. 6, 1st race, $1,785.

Bonita Farm—CALYPSO GHOST: Feb. 5, 5th race, $2,137.50; Feb. 28, 3rd race, $945. ($3,082.50).

Mary B. Boskin—BROOKS ROBINSON: Feb. 25, 9th race, $4,987.50.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman—CHELICHNA: Feb. 15, 2nd race, $945. PROPER ATTIRE: Feb. 27, 9th race, $5,985. ($6,930)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman—MISS PHILLY DILLY: Feb. 7, 1st race, $3,135. STREET LUTE: Feb. 20, 6th race, $8,250. ($11,385)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Rebecca Davis—GREAT GO GO: Feb. 7, 2nd race, $2,707.50; Feb. 25, 9th race, $1,837.50. TOM TERRIFIC: Feb. 21, 4th race, $3,277.50. ($7,822.50).

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Rebecca Davis and R. Larry Johnson—PETES PRIDE: Feb. 6, 5th race, $787.50; Feb. 27, 4th race, $787.50. ($1,575).

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and R. Larry Johnson—ALWAYS TALKING: Feb. 15, 7th race, $1,837.50.

Buckingham Farm—I LOVE YOU: Feb. 28, 10th race, $3,562.50.

CandyLand Farm—GALILEAN MOON: Feb. 7, 3rd race, $4,702.50.

Dennis A. Cardoza—CAPTAIN CARDO: Feb. 4, 3rd race, $495.

Clover Hill Racing LLC—LADNEEDSAHANDLER: Feb. 28, 4th race, $1,417.50.

Randy L. Cohen and Alyse L. Cohen—STAND MY GROUND: Feb. 28, 5th race, $787.50.

Cordelia Stables LLC—IMAGINE VICTORY: Feb. 21, 3rd race, $1,155.

Cliff and Mary Cornwell and Country Life Farm—SUPER HOUDINI: Feb. 7, 3rd race, $907.50.

Country Life Farm—ALOYSIUS LUCK: Feb. 20, 2nd race, $907.50. TAPPAHANNOCK: Feb. 5, 9th race, $412.50. ($1,320)

Country Life Farm and Fifteen Moons LLC—MOONSAFE: Feb. 27, 2nd race, $4,702.50.

Country Life Farm and Lawless Love LLC—BREEZE OFF THE BAY: Feb. 27, 9th race, $2,205.

Country Roads Ltd.—UTTERLY ENCHANTING: Feb. 26, 5th race, $522.50.

CRK Stable LLC—EXCELLORATOR: Feb. 12, 7th race, $5,985.

Mike Dalton LLC—CONJECTURE: Feb. 5, 7th race, $4,275; Feb. 28, 8th race, $4,275. ($8,550).

Dark Hollow Farm—OXIDE: Feb. 7, 7th race, $6,412.50. SOUTHSIDE WARRIOR: Feb. 21, 5th race, $945. ($7,357.50).

Dark Hollow Farm and Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Davidov—COMBAT QUEEN: Feb. 7, 8th race, $1,155; Feb. 15, 7th race, $962.50. ($2,117.50).

Rebecca Davis and Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman—MOSLER'S TOUCH: Feb. 12, 6th race, $1,732.50.

Double NK Partnership and Dennis Jankiewicz—DISPUTED NOTION: Feb. 4, 9th race, $3,847.50.

Dragon's Lair Farm LLC—BAPTIZE THE BOY: Feb. 25, 9th race, $962.50.

The Elkstone Group LLC—BUST OUT LADY: Feb. 27, 5th race, $2,565. GRAVITY'S RAINBOW: Feb. 7, 6th race, $5,700. HIGHER PURPOSE: Feb. 25, 4th race, $2,137.50. LIFESPAN: Feb. 25, 10th race, $945. ONE LAST TRIAL: Feb. 26, 7th race, $4,132.50. PLOT THE DOTS: Feb. 25, 8th race, $6,412.50. THE QUANTICO KID: Feb. 7, 5th race, $495. TORCH OF TRUTH: Feb. 26, 4th race, $825. USED TO BE FUN: Feb. 25, 6th race, $495. ($23,707.50)

The Etched Racing Partnership—ACADIAN GIRL: Feb. 7, 4th race, $2,565 .

Annette Eubanks and Daniel Eubanks—ROCKINHIPPIECHICK: Feb. 15, 6th race, $1,417.50.

Fitzhugh LLC—LOOKIN DYNAMIC: Feb. 6, 7th race, $1,837.50.

Gainesway Thoroughbreds Limited—THIEF OF DREAMS: Feb. 27, 2nd race, $1,732.50.

Robert E. Gamber—CRYING FOR MORE: Feb. 25, 3rd race, $3,847.50. DO I EVER: Feb. 5, 1st race, $495. ($4,342.50).

Sheryl Grant—SHE'S ALL COURAGE: Feb. 15, 6th race, $742.50.

Greenspring Mares LLC—WRITTENBYTHESTARS: Feb. 5, 6th race, $605; Feb. 21, 9th race, $605. ($1,210).

Aimee D. Hall—BANG BANG: Feb. 4, 9th race, $742.50.

Tiffany Harrison and Justin Harrison—SAN ANTONE: Feb. 15, 1st race, $4,275.

Hickory Ridge Farm—CAREY TIMES: Feb. 27, 7th race, $1,237.50.

Hillwood Stable LLC—BE GOOD: Feb. 26, 3rd race, $1,155. FRIEND ME CHARLIE: Feb. 15, 7th race, $4,987.50. LONG POINT BEACH: Feb. 26, 5th race, $997.50. STEELY BAND: Feb. 7, 1st race, $1,155; Feb. 26, 1st race, $1,155. ($9,450).

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth C. Holt—GOLDEN LASSIE: Feb. 4, 7th race, $1,732.50. QUEEN OF TOMORROW: Feb. 6, 7th race, $4,987.50. ($6,720).

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Holt, Theodore Montuori, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Palumbo—TATTOOED: Feb. 20, 8th race, $2,750.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Holt and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Palumbo—LE WEEKEND: Feb. 5, 7th race, $825; Feb. 28, 8th race, $1,575. ($2,400).

Kyle Horlacher—DOUBLE FIREBALL: Feb. 27, 1st race, $4,275.

Hamilton Smith, Fred Greene Jr. and Deborah Greene—THE POSER: Feb. 5, 8th race, $4,987.50.

Ann B. Jackson—ARTFUL SPLATTER: Feb. 20, 5th race, $1,375.

Jagger Inc.—APRILNESS: Feb. 25, 6th race, $2,565.

R. Larry Johnson—BLUE SKY PAINTER: Feb. 4, 2nd race, $2,565; Feb. 25, 2nd race, $997.50. DESPITE ODDS: Feb. 26, 2nd race, $3,135. KEEPER IN SPITE: Feb. 27, 4th race, $2,137.50. THUNDERINTHEVALLEY: Feb. 27, 5th race, $495. ($9,330).

Lady Olivia at North Cliff LLC—LADY FOX: Feb. 26, 7th race, $797.50. WATCHTHEBOURBON: Feb. 20, 1st race, $412.50. ($1,210).

Andrea G. Lematta—ICE RAIN: Feb. 21, 7th race, $1,470.

Little Man Farm—NIC NIC BOOM: Feb. 27, 6th race, $412.50.

Estate of Robert T. Manfuso—FEATURE ACT: Feb. 4, 5th race, $412.50.

Robert T. Manfuso and Katharine M. Voss—BUZZHOUND: Feb. 28, 4th race, $742.50. CORDMAKER: Feb. 20, 4th race, $1,375. MCELMORE AVENUE: Feb. 25, 8th race, $2,362.50. NO MORE TALK: Feb. 7, 5th race, $945. ($5,425).

Marathon Farm Inc.—WHIRLIN CURLIN: Feb. 4, 5th race, $2,137.50.

Daniel E. Marconi—GALERIO: Feb. 20, 4th race, $2,750.
Mrs. J.W.Y. Martin Jr.—TRIP TO FREEDOM: Feb. 27, 9th race, $1,155.
MOM Stable—WHAT THE FLASH: Feb. 5, 4th race, $1,417.50; Feb. 28, 4th race, $3,847.50. ($5,265).
Kevin P. Morgan—FANCY PRINCESS: Feb. 4, 7th race, $4,702.50. MANKLIN CREEK: Feb. 12, 2nd race, $495. MAVILUS: Feb. 27, 1st race, $825. RAHMER: Feb. 4, 1st race, $907.50. ($6,930).
Morgan's Ford Farm—TOUGH ONE: Feb. 12, 6th race, $907.50.
Audrey R. Murray—PAY THE KID: Feb. 4, 2nd race, $495.
Nancy Lee Farms—POLISH COOKIE: Feb. 4, 7th race, $701.25.
Charles V. Parker—FORTH: Feb. 20, 9th race, $1,100.
Dr. and Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau—LUCIAN: Feb. 15, 4th race, $3,135.
Quest Realty—MOONZANO: Feb. 4, 3rd race, $945.

Maryland-bred top earners in 2021

(through May 4)

1. Knicks Go	$3,240,000	11. Chasin Munny	$78,200
2. Jaxon Traveler	150,000	12. Cordmaker	77,500
3. Street Lute	130,000	13. Postnup	75,600
4. Pete's Play Call	113,564	14. Gifted Heart	68,490
5. Tattooed	96,800	15. Hello Beautiful	67,500
6. Excellorator	96,372	16. Hemp	66,768
7. I Get It	92,678	17. Sick Pack Sara	64,806
8. Laki	91,000	18. Heart Full of Soul	63,600
9. Shackled Love	84,182	19. Aloha West	63,490
10. Proper Attire	82,194	20. Paisley Singing	62,655

Maryland Horse Breeders Association

Business Member Spotlight

Equine Veterinary Care

Equine Veterinary Care was established in 1993 at the Fair Hill Training Center, located just north of Elkton, Maryland. A four doctor practice with ambulatory, inpatient and outpatient components, Equine Veterinary Care offers a wide variety of state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment options.

We specialize in sports medicine cases, soundness examinations, digital imaging and pre-purchase evaluations of race and sport horses. In addition, we offer intensive medical care of colic patients, respiratory cases and severe wounds and perform elective surgical procedures at our clinic.

Learn more at EquineVetCare.com

Membership inquiries? Member benefits questions?

Call the MHBA office 410.252.2100

R.D.M. Racing Stable—WHATS THE CHANCES: Feb. 27, 6th race, $787.50.
Gale L. Reveley—S W BRIAR ROSE: Feb. 26, 9th race, $1,292.50.
Darci Rice—HAD THE NOTION: Feb. 12, 3rd race, $632.50.
No Guts No Glory Farm—LITTLE BOLD BANDIT: Feb. 5, 4th race, $742.50.
Carolyn Rainbow, Samuel H. Rogers and Susan R. Parks—IN CLASS: Feb. 6, 5th race, $2,137.50.
Timothy J. Rooney—SEANY P: Feb. 6, 8th race, $4,275.
Alexandro Rubim-Dias—AWARD WANTED: Feb. 21, 3rd race, $3,135.
John Ryan and Monica Ryan—PASCAL CHANT: Feb. 26, 6th race, $412.50.
Sagamore Farm LLC—BRING ME ANSWERS: Feb. 6, 2nd race, $2,137.50.
Skeedattle Associates—HOT CHOICE: Feb. 25, 5th race, $495.
Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—DOUBLE-OSEVEN: Feb. 28, 9th race, $2,205. GIRLS LOVE ME: Feb. 5, 8th race, $1,837.50. PAISLEY SINGING: Feb. 5, 7th race, $1,575. RUBBER BAND: Feb. 21, 7th race, $3,990. ($9,607.50).
Thomas L. Teal—CHARGINA: Feb. 28, 1st race, $5,700.
Thornmar Farm LLC—CONCRETE ANSWER: Feb. 27, 5th race, $945. GALOFMYDREAMS: Feb. 6, 6th race, $1,417.50. GOLDEN WARRIOR: Feb. 21, 2nd race, $825. GOSH: Feb. 15, 4th race, $1,155. NOBODY KNEW: Feb. 15, 3rd race, $4,845. THE WOLFMAN: Feb. 12, 7th race, $2,205; Feb. 28, 9th race, $5,985. ($17,377.50).
Thornmar Farm and Tim Keefe—STILL HAVING FUN: Feb. 26, 4th race, $1,575.
Thornmar Farm and Colleen Torsney—KEEP-YOURSKATESON: Feb. 6, 6th race, $3,847.50.
Two Legends Farm—BENANDJOE: Feb. 5, 8th race, $962.50.
University of Maryland—HELL IN A SHELL: Feb. 26, 1st race, $3,135.
Robert S. Vukelic—CROUCHELLI: Feb. 28, 7th race, $2,205.
Janet L. Wayson—OUTSIDE THE BOX: Feb. 5, 9th race, $787.50.
Konrad M. Wayson—BEAR FORCE WON: Feb. 5, 3rd race, $1,522.50.
Winners Circle Partners VIII—GOLAZO: Feb. 21, 4th race, $632.50.
Mrs. Frank P. Wright—SARAH'S TREASURE: Feb. 6, 7th race, $962.50.
Virginia Wright, Mary Jones and Robin L. Graham—BRIGHTWOOD: Feb. 7, 9th race, $945; Feb. 26, 2nd race, $605. ($1,550).
ZWP Stable and Non Stop Stable—MALIBU BEAUTY: Feb. 25, 7th race, $1,155.

Stallion bonuses

ADMIRAL ALEX (Crying for More: Feb. 25, 3rd race, $1,281.99): Leon Blusiewicz.
BANDBOX (Artful Splatter: Feb. 20, 5th race, $458. Baptize the Boy: Feb. 25, 9th race, $320.71. Bear Force Won: Feb. 5, 3rd race, $507.30. Be Good: Feb. 26, 3rd race, $384.85. Friend Me Charlie: Feb. 15, 7th race, $1,661.84. In Class: Feb. 6, 5th race, $712.22. Manklin Creek: Feb. 12, 2nd race, $164.93. Outside the Box: Feb. 5, 9th race, $262.40. Queen of Tomorrow: Feb. 6, 7th race, $1,661.84. Rubber Band: Feb. 21, 7th race, $1,329.47. Steely Band: Feb. 7, 1st race, $384.85; Feb. 26, 1st race, $384.85. The Poser: Feb. 5, 8th race, $1,661.84. The Wolfman: Feb. 12, 7th race, $734.71; Feb. 28, 9th race, $1,994.20): Bandbox Syndicate—$12,624.01.
BOURBON COURAGE (San Antone: Feb. 15, 1st race, $1,424.43. She's All Courage: Feb. 15, 6th race, $247.40. Watchthebourbon: Feb. 20, 1st race, $137.45. What the Flash: Feb. 5, 4th race, $472.31; Feb. 28, 4th race, $1,281.99): Bourbon Courage Syndicate—$3,563.58.
BUFFUM (Fancy Princess: Feb. 4, 7th race, $1,566.87. Hell in a Shell: Feb. 26, 1st race, $1,044.58. Malibu Beauty: Feb. 25, 7th race, $384.85): Buffum Syndicate—$2,996.30.
CUBA (Laki: Feb. 20, 8th race, $458): J&S Stables LLC.
DESPITE THE ODDS (Always Talking: Feb. 15, 7th race, $612.26. Despite Odds: Feb. 26, 2nd race, $1,044.58. Keeper in Spite: Feb. 27, 4th race, $712.22. Petes Pride: Feb. 6, 5th race, $262.40; Feb. 27, 4th race, $262.40. Utterly Enchanting: Feb. 26, 5th race, $174.10. Whats the Chances: Feb. 27, 6th race, $262.40): R. Larry Johnson—$3,330.36.
ETCHED (Calypso Ghost: Feb. 5, 5th race, $712.22; Feb. 28, 3rd race, $314.87. Pascal Chant: Feb. 26, 6th race, $137.45. Tattooed: Feb. 20, 8th race, $916): Bonita Farm Stallion Partnership—$2,080.54.
FREEDOM CHILD (Mit Mazel: Feb. 25, 7th race, $734.71. Tom Terrific: Feb. 21, 4th race, $1,092.06. Trip to Freedom: Feb. 27, 9th race, $384.85): Freedom Child Syndicate—$2,211.62.
FRIESAN FIRE (D C Fireman: Feb. 27, 8th race, $712.22. Hot Choice: Feb. 25, 5th race, $164.93. Tappahannock: Feb. 5, 9th race, $137.45): Country Life Farm/Friesan Fire Syndicate—$1,014.60.
GOLDEN LAD (Asbuilt: Feb. 7, 6th race, $699.72; Feb. 27, 2nd race, $302.38. Golden Lassie: Feb. 4, 7th race, $577.27. Golden Warrior: Feb. 21, 2nd race, $274.89. Ladneedsahandler: Feb. 28, 4th race, $472.31. Long Point Beach: Feb. 26, 5th race, $332.37. Oxide: Feb. 7, 7th race, $2,136.65. Paisley Singing: Feb. 5, 7th race, $524.79. Rahmer: Feb. 4, 1st race, $302.38): Golden Lad Syndicate—$5,622.76.
GREAT NOTION (Conjecture: Feb. 5, 7th race, $1,424.43; Feb. 28, 8th race, $1,424.43; Disputed Notion: Feb. 4, 9th race, $1,281.99. Great Go Go: Feb. 7, 2nd race, $902.14; Feb. 25, 9th race, $612.26. Had the Notion: Feb. 12, 3rd race, $210.75. Le Weekend: Feb. 5, 7th race, $274.89; Feb. 28, 8th race, $524.79. Little Bold Bandit: Feb. 5, 4th race, $247.40): Great Notion Syndicate—$6,903.08.
HANGOVER KID (Pay the Kid: Feb. 4, 2nd race, $164.93): Hangover Kid Syndicate.
IMAGINING (Buzzhound: Feb. 28, 4th race, $247.40. Double Fireball: Feb. 27, 1st race, $1,424.43. Hinting: Feb. 7, 9th race, $164.93. Imagine Victory: Feb. 21, 3rd race, $384.85. Lady Fox: Feb. 26, 7th race, $265.73. Proper Attire: Feb. 27, 9th race, $1,994.20): Imagining Syndicate—$4,481.54.
MOSLER (Aloysius Luck: Feb. 20, 2nd race, $302.38. Johnny Sack: Feb. 20, 2nd race, $1,566.87. Moonsafe: Feb. 27, 2nd race, $1,566.87. Mosler's Touch: Feb. 12, 6th race, $577.27): Country Life Farm, Adele Dilschneider and Seth Hancock—$4,013.39.
NICANOR (Nic Nic Boom: Feb. 27, 6th race, $137.45. Seany P: Feb. 6, 8th race, $1,424.43): Nicanor Syndicate—$1,561.88.
NORUMBEGA (Acadian Girl: Feb. 7, 4th race, $854.66): Bonita Farm and Stuart Janney III LLC.
NOT FOR LOVE (Brooks Robinson: Feb. 25, 9th race, $1,661.84. No More Talk: Feb. 7, 5th race, $314.87. Torch of Truth: Feb. 26, 4th race, $274.89): Not For Love Syndicate—$2,251.60.
ORIENTATE (Gosh: Feb. 15, 4th race, $384.85. Mavilus: Feb. 27, 1st race, $274.89): Orientate Syndicate—$659.74.
OUTFLANKER (Crouchelli: Feb. 28, 7th race, $734.71): Outflanker Syndicate.
SEVILLE (GER) (Brightwood: Feb. 7, 9th race, $314.87; Feb. 26, 2nd race, $201.59. Chelichna: Feb. 15, 2nd race, $314.87. I Love You: Feb. 28, 10th race, $1,187.03. Marylander: Feb. 28, 6th race, $137.45. Polish Cookie: Feb. 4, 7th race, $233.66): Seville Syndicate—$2,389.47.
STREET MAGICIAN (Bang Bang: Feb. 4, 9th race, $247.40. Demo Doctor: Feb. 6, 1st race, $594.76. Street Lute: Feb. 20, 6th race, $2,748): R. Larry Johnson—$3,590.16.
SUPER NINETY NINE (Hemp: Feb. 20, 9th race, $1,899.24. Hemp: Feb. 28, 9th race, $384.85. Super Houdini: Feb. 7, 3rd race, $302.38. Walk It Out Nanny: Feb. 5, 1st race, $854.66): Country Life Farm—$3,441.13.
TRITAP (Miss Philly Dilly: Feb. 7, 1st race, $1,044.58): Tritap Syndicate.

THE THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER

Post Time

- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - **June 2021** -

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FOLLOW or LIKE **NJBREDS** on.

Horologist kicks off 2021 campaign the right way

By Bill Finley

Co-owner Cameron Beatty admitted there were some anxious moments before the April 10 Top Flight Invitational at Aqueduct. Five months earlier, the ownership group decided to pull Horologist out of the Keeneland November sale and bring her back for a 5-year-old racing campaign. It was a calculated risk, with no guarantees.

Horologist won Aqueduct's $100,000 Top Flight Invitational in her 2021 debut.

"We just didn't think she was ready to retire," Beatty said.

Apparently not.

Making her first start since the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Distaff at Keeneland, Horologist returned with a game win in the $100,000 stakes. For the New Jersey-bred daughter of Gemologist, it was her eighth career win and her fifth stakes win while earning $770,439.

"It definitely was a relief to watch her come back like that," Beatty said. "Coming back off a layoff of almost six months and at nine furlongs is not an easy task for any horse. We were all very pleased with how she responded."

Horologist, already a Grade 2 winner, would have no doubt sold for a big figure at Keeneland, allowing the owners to cash out. But Beatty and the others believed that Horologist would be stronger than ever if given the chance to run at 5.

"We gave her the opportunity to take some time off and just enjoy the green grass and relax a little bit," Beatty said. "She acted like she wanted to continue training. We decided to bring her back, give her another year and see how it goes. We were all contemplating selling her because sales prices for top broodmares were astronomical last year. We just felt like she had some unfinished business to take care of."

The Top Flight brought together a field of six and Horologist was the even-money favorite. She won by a length, but it was not easy. Mrs. Danvers, the second choice in the wagering, got a dream trip. Ridden by Kendrick Carmouche, Mrs. Danvers used her speed to her advantage, opening up by 2 lengths down the backstretch. Horologist tracked in second but was allowing the leader to coast while setting a moderate pace – the half-mile went in :49.55 and 6 furlongs in 1:14.16.

"I was actually very worried on the backside," Beatty said. "Any time you let a horse like Mrs. Danvers, who is a beast, get an easy lead like that you've got a problem. They were making it too easy for the leader. We were concerned, but we knew that if you let her relax, she will give you everything she has coming down the stretch. That's the key, getting her to relax."

Horologist inched closer on the far turn and poked her head in front at the quarter-pole. Mrs. Danvers hung in gamely and stuck her head back in front at the sixteenth-pole. In the end, Horologist was just too good.

"Coming off the layoff, this track is very tiring and I didn't want to be on the lead and have someone putting pressure on me the whole way.," winning rider Junior Alvarado said. "It took me a little bit to get her settled, but when she settled on the backside, I knew it was good. When she [Mrs. Danvers] came back to me, I knew we were good after that. Turning for home, I had to ask her a little bit, but it's not easy coming from a layoff on this track going a mile and an eighth. She really tried. I was pretty happy with the way she did it. She was the class of the race."

For the owners and trainer Bill Mott, a return trip to Monmouth to defend her title in the Grade 3 Molly Pitcher on the Haskell Day undercard July 17 is definitely on the schedule.

"She loves Monmouth," Beatty said of his mare who is 5-for-6 lifetime at Monmouth. "It was her home track for the longest time."

The other obvious goal is to make it back to the Breeders' Cup Distaff and to run in some of the major preps for that race.

"We still think that her best races are in front of her," Beatty said. "We will get together as a group and discuss the options, but we're going to run her where the best competition is. We'll see how she matches up and how she will do against the top competition."

The good news is that Horologist looks like she has the talent to string together some big wins in graded company this year. The bad news is that she's part of an incredibly tough division, topped by superstars Monomoy Girl and Swiss Skydiver.

"As a horse owner, you always want to avoid those superstars and let them battle it out," Beatty said, while referring to Oaklawn Park's Apple Blossom Handicap-G1 in April (won by Letruska in a thriller).

"The way Kenny McPeek (trainer of Swiss Skydiver) and Brad Cox (Monomoy Girl) are talking, they could take on the boys in the Breeders' Cup Classic because they have something to prove. If that happens it will relieve a lot of stress and pressure on all the rest of the top fillies and mares out there.

"We've taken on Monomoy Girl a couple of times. Yes, she has beaten us. But given the right trip, I think we match up well against her.

"If you shy away from the top competition, you'll never find out how good your horse is," he added.

Horologist is proving to be one of the best and most successful Jersey-breds in years. She's won at least one race every year she's been in training and has now won stakes at ages 3, 4, and 5. She has accomplished plenty, and the best may be yet to come.

Bold Thunder to stud at Hidden Acres 4-D Farm

Bold Thunder, a three-time stakes winner and track record holder, is standing at Hidden Acres 4-D Farm in Allentown for a private fee. The son of Bold n' Flashy out of the winning Storm Creek mare Stormy Kristine won the 5-furlong Pennsylvania Governor's Cup at age 7 and also placed third in the same race during his 4-year-old and 5-year-old campaigns. Bold Thunder set a course record in the 2015 Turf Dash Stakes at Tampa Bay Downs, running 5 furlongs on the grass in :54.63. He also accounted for Gulfstream Park's Silks Run Stakes in 2014, also at 5 furlongs on the turf.

His second dam, winner Cruising Kris (by Kris S.) produced nine winners from 10 foals, two of them stakes winners, including millionaire Kaigun, whose 11 wins included Del Mar's Seabiscuit Handicap-G2, Woodbine's Play the King Stakes-G2, and Gulfstream Park's Pan American Stakes-G2. He also placed in three Grade 1 stakes and earned $1,512,112.

Please contact Todd Wilkinson at 609-915-1430 for additional information.

Two-time New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year Sunny Ridge retired

Sunny Ridge, the second-leading New Jersey-bred money earner with $1,443,677 career earnings, has been retired and is now trainer John Kimmel's stable pony.

Bred and owned by Dennis Drazin, the gelded son of Holy Bull raced seven seasons, won eight of 32 starts including seven stakes, and hit the board in 19 stakes. He won the Sapling at 2, Grade 3 Withers at 3, Jazil and Stymie Stakes at 4, State Dinner Stakes as a 5-year-old, and the Salvator Mile Stakes-G3 and Richard W. Small Stakes at 6. His final stakes start was his only race in 2020, when he finished third in a three-way photo with Mind Control and Nicodemus in Aqueduct's Toboggan Stakes-G3.

Sunny Ridge finished with a record of 8-6-7 from 32 starts. He was Grade 1-placed when second in the Champagne at 2, third in the 2016 Haskell Invitational behind Exaggerator, and third in the 2018 Cigar Mile.

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

Sunny Ridge was honored as the New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year in 2016 and 2018.

Equine Assisted Services for veterans with PTSD research project

The Equine Science Center has announced the Recruitment Phase for its large-scale research project focusing on Equine Assisted Services (EAS) for veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). "We are excited to finally start the recruitment phase of the project after having been postponed by the pandemic," says Ms. Ellen Rankins, Ph.D. candidate in the Rutgers Endocrinology and Animal Biosciences Graduate Program. "We are confident that by this summer we will be ready to start the research project, utilizing both Center for Disease Control and Rutgers Return to Research guidelines, with proper protocols to ensure the safety of everyone involved."

Ms. Rankins is the study coordinator and will be conducting the research as her Ph.D. dissertation project under the mentorship of Drs. Karyn Malinowski and Kenneth McKeever. She will examine the horse-human interaction, and how EAS affects both humans and horses during these types of interventions. The population that Ms. Rankins is currently recruiting are male combat veterans who served in the Iraq or Afghanistan theaters of operation. This group has been selected in order to reduce variability in the measured variables, which include hormones that differ between males and females, and selecting the most recent theatres of operation in order to remove variables that come with the passage of time.

While her research was postponed for a year, she has used that time to actively engage with potential partners, participants, and donors for both information sessions, as well as fundraising initiatives. One of the biggest fundraising initiatives was Rutgers Giving Day, a daylong fundraising initiative to raise both money and awareness for the programs, services, and projects at Rutgers University.

"Thanks to the generous donations from people across the country, we believe that we will soon be able to fully fund Ellen's research and be able to completely cover the cost for all veterans participating in the study" said Center Director Dr. Karyn Malinowski.

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

Membership Application

Member Information

NAME _____ SS#/FEDERAL I.D.# _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

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☐ Owner — An owner member shall be a person who owns a registered New Jersey- bred; who submits an application for membership, and pays the membership dues. An owner member will not have voting rights.

☐ Associate — An associate member is a person who is interested in owning, breeding, or racing horses in the State of New Jersey or in fostering economic activity through the breeding, ownership and/or racing of horses in the State of New Jersey. An associate member will not have voting rights.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Membership Dues

A check or money order for $65.00 must accompany this form. Spouses are encouraged to join the **TBANJ** under joint membership status. This fee would total $100.00 per couple. Each spouse must fill out a separate form to accompany the payment. Membership will be effective upon receipt and will be in force each calendar year and must be renewed annually.

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY
265 Hwy 36
Suite 1R
W. Long Branch, NJ 07764
(732) 542-8880 Fax: (732) 542-8881
email: njbreds@gmail.com

North Carolina

THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

June 2021

President's message

Congratulations to our members, Nancy Shuford and Dan Shea, whose horses entered the Winner's Circle. As racing gets back to normal this summer, hopefully our members will experience much success at the track.

Bank On Shea, owned by Dan Shea of Shea D Boys Stable, won the first stakes race of the 48-day spring/summer meet at Belmont Park. The Affirmed Success Stakes is a New York-bred race for 4-year-olds and up. This son of Central Banker won his debut at Saratoga in July 2019. He went on to win the $500,000 New York Stallion Stakes Series Great White Way that December at Aqueduct. In 2020, he only ran once and was stakes-placed, and after a 13-month layoff he emerged a winner in his 2021 debut at Aqueduct in March.

Bob Sanford's and Jim Hardin Jr.'s filly Free Me launched her career in April at Pimlico. Bred by Jim Hardin Sr. and Bob Sanford, she is now racing for Jim Sr.'s son and Bob. Although the inexperienced filly didn't break her maiden on her first go, I am looking forward to making favorable results for her soon.

/Rebecca Montaldo

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

(910) 261-7595
www.ncthoroughbred.com
ncthoroughbred@gmail.com

P.O. Box 76, Fayetteville, NC 28302

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Racing Recaps

Rockin Anna Rollin (Fast Anna out of Rockhouse, by Chelsey Cat) won a Charles Town maiden special weight March 26 for breeder Nancy Shuford. The 4-year-old filly ran 4½ furlongs on a good dirt track in :53.46. She broke fourth, ran off the rail chasing the leaders, took the lead at the five-sixteenths pole, was encouraged in mid-stretch and cruised home to win by 3½ lengths.

Sag Harbor (Palace out of Dynamite Dame, by El Prado-Ire) won a maiden special weight at Delta Downs April 12 for breeder Nancy Shuford. The 4-year-old colt ran 5 furlongs on a fast track in :59.07. Sag Harbor broke slow and, running inside, was hustled up when entering the turn for home, angled out and cleared down the stretch to win by 4¾ lengths.

Bank On Shea (Central Banker out of Miss Moultree, by Uncle Mo) won the Affirmed Success Stakes at Belmont Park April 23 for owner Dan Shea – Shady D Boys Stables. The multiple stakes winner ran 6 furlongs on a fast dirt track in 1:09.86. Taking the lead from the start, the 4-year-old colt came under some pressure from the outside, angled in just off the inside, came under a drive in the stretch, stubbornly held the lead to win by a length.

BENOIT PHOTO

Shooters Shoot wins at Santa Anita in April for breeder Nancy Shuford.

ADAM COGLIANESE

Bank On Shea wins the Affirmed Success Stakes at Belmont for Dan Shea – Shady D Boys Stables.

Shooters Shoot (Competitive Edge out of Repeat, by Bernardini) won at Santa Anita Park April 24 for breeder Nancy Shuford. The 4-year-old gelding ran 7 furlongs on a fast dirt track. Brushed at the start, he trailed the field early, running three-wide around the turn. Moved outside near the top of the stretch, he closed on the front runner, edged to the lead under urging to win by three-quarters of a length.

Hitting the Board March 25–April 24

Date	Horse	Track	NCTA Connection	Results
25-Mar	Firing Carol	Aqueduct	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd
26-Mar	All Fact	Fair Grounds	Bred by Nancy Shuford	2nd
26-Mar	Rockin Anna Rollin	Charles Town	Bred by Nancy Shuford	WINNER!
2-Apr	Cayenne Creek	Charles Town	Bred by Clint Lowry	2nd
5-Apr	Secret Zar	Parx Racing	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd
12-Apr	Sag Harbor	Delta Downs	Bred by Nancy Shuford	**WINNER!**
23-Apr	Bank On Shea	Belmont Park 100K Affirmed Success S.	Owned by Dan & Christy Shea - Shea D Boys Stables	**WINNER!**
24-Apr	Hurtgen Forest	Brooklandwood - Charlotte	Owned & bred by William & Carrington Price	2nd
24-Apr	Shooters Shoot	Santa Anita	Bred by Nancy Shuford	**WINNER!**

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

2021 MEMBERSHP FORM

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Involvement in Thoroughbred Industry
(Please check any or all pertaining to you)

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❑Hunter/Jumper ❑Eventing ❑Dressage ❑Pleasure ❑Other_____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: **N.C.T.A.**
MAIL WITH COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: **Rebecca Montaldo, NCTA, P.O. Box 76., Fayetteville NC 28302**

Thank you for your support.

PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

PA Thoroughbred NEWSLETTER

June 2021
pabred.com

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:** Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:** Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:** Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:** Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

VISIT PABRED.COM

- **Racing and breeding news**
- **PA-Bred entries/results**
- **Rules, regulations, forms**

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HEY CHUB – Overachiever on the track and at stud

Multiple stakes winner moves to PA to continue his success at stud

by Emily Shields

When asked why he ultimately elected to stand Hey Chub as a stallion, owner Danny Lopez explained, "I never thought he reached his full potential as a racehorse."

That is saying a lot, considering Hey Chub was a multiple stakes winner who earned $441,755. Now he is standing in Pennsylvania at Delaware Valley University, bringing with him to the Keystone State a whopping 88 percent winners from starters.

Hey Chub, a son of Carson City—Donna Doo, by Spend a Buck, is a homebred for Lopez, who campaigned the hard-knocking horse over six seasons. "He ran hard every time," Lopez said. "He had a lot of problems. One knee was operated on twice, he had tie back surgery before he ever ran. But he was an overachiever."

Hey Chub broke his maiden in his second start, scoring by a neck and finishing 5 lengths clear of the third-place horse. That was at the Meadowlands; the rest of his wins would come at Monmouth Park. He won every year from 2003 to 2008, first scoring in allowance races and then ultimately winning the $60,000 John J. Reilly Handicap and the $75,000 Lincroft Handicap.

Hey Chub didn't win every race, but his consistency was key: in 36 career starts, he won seven, was second 16 times, and finished third seven times. Only twice in his entire career did he finish worse than fifth.

"Almost every time he was in the money," Lopez said. "Most often he was second or third. But I still felt he was a better racehorse than he showed, so I thought we should make a stallion out of him."

Hey Chub's pedigree supported that decision. Brilliant stakes winner Carson City went on to sire stars such as Lord Carson, City Band, Five Star Day and Carson Hollow; Hey Chub is one of his top earners in the United States. Hey Chub's stakes-winning, New Jersey-bred champion dam Donna Doo finished first or second in 10 of 15 starts, and once defeated males in the New Jersey Futurity. She has produced five winners from

Hey Chub *continued from page 1*

six to race, including dual stakes winner Saltwater Runner.

Donna Doo's dam, the stakes-winning Nasty Affair, was dual graded stakes-placed in New York. The daughter of Nasty and Bold produced graded winner Mountain Affair, graded stakes-placed Hell Cat, and stakes winner Nasty Fever, who in turn produced multiple stakes-placed Conquest Twister. Nasty Affair is also the second dam of popular New Jersey-bred Cuba, who earned $792,694 on the track.

With that much pedigree power, and his gritty and consistent race record, Hey Chub entered stud supported by Lopez. In his very first crop he produced hard-knocking Cheddar Chub, who won 12 of 89 starts and finished in the top three 40 times, and What the Chub, with 26 top-two placings.

Graded stakes winner Chublicious was from his second crop. Out of the Arch mare Sassy Broad, Chublicious was good enough to contest Grade 1 company at Saratoga, and won the $250,000 Frank J. DeFrancis Memorial Dash-G3 at Laurel Park. Chublicious, with $676,753 in earnings, is still in training.

Another stakes winner was Chubble Maker, who won the New Jersey Breeders Handicap at Monmouth Park in 2015. He is one of five stakes winners for Hey Chub, who has progeny earnings of over $4.7 million. His average earners per starter is over $112,000.

Now along comes Chub Wagon, Lopez's unbeaten daughter of Hey Chub out of the Lion Heart mare Takin the Plunge. Guadalupe Preciado trains Chub Wagon, who won her first four starts, starting at Parx and then an allowance race at Aqueduct, before adding the $100,000 Unique Bella Stakes April 27. The bay filly was ridden by Jomar Torres. and scored by 7½ lengths as a heavy favorite in the 7-furlong contest.

"I always liked her from the beginning because she was a big nice foal," Lopez said of Chub Wagon. "She is related to Brother Chub, who earned over $500,000. Chub Wagon has the biggest set of lungs I've ever heard on a horse, and I've been around a lot of horses in 65 years."

No matter how much talent his runners show, Lopez does not believe in rushing into stakes company. "I was to pick the flowers on the way up the hill," he explained before the Unique Bella, noting that he puts each horse through every available condition. "We'll see if she can perform in Pennsylvania-bred stakes, and then after that we'll try an open one." She was entered in the Skipat Stakes on Preakness weekend at Pimlico as this magazine was going to press.

Hey Chub relocated to Pennsylvania for the 2021 season. "He's been very good locally," Lopez said. "His offspring win no matter where they run: Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and he's an easy stallion to be around."

Lopez hopes for more recognition for Hey Chub, who has been an underrated force on the stallion ranks for years. "His record speaks for itself," he said. "He throws a lot of runners for not seeing the nicer mares."

The now 21-year-old stallion has 37 winners from 42 to race, and already has three winners in the first few months of 2021. With his consistency and class being passed to his offspring, Hey Chub should continue to succeed in his new home.

A few words from the Executive Secretary

The PA-Bred Stakes schedule kicked off on Tuesday, April 27, at Parx Racing with two fantastic races. Congrats to winners Wait for It and Chub Wagon. Wait for It was bred by Fantasy Lane Stable and had a great come-from-behind win in the Page McKenney Handicap for owners Uptowncharlybrown Stud and trainer Ed Coletti Jr. Chub Wagon, bred and owned by Joe-Dan Farm and George Chestnut, went latch-to-wire in an incredible front-running victory in the Unique Bella Stakes for trainer Guadalupe Preciado. The next two $100,000 stakes were scheduled for Penn Mile Day on Memorial Day weekend, May 28, for 3 & up, long on the turf. Take a look at our PA Stakes schedule at pabred.com!

Our 42nd Annual Iroquois Award Banquet was held virtually again this year. It was a great night celebrating the PHBA Champions of 2020. Congratulations to Horse of the Year Caravel, bred, owned and trained by Elizabeth Merryman, and this year's Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Patricia Chapman! Visit pabred.com to see the other award winners!

PA Day at the Races and luncheon will be held Monday, Aug. 23 at Parx Racing. We'd like to again thank the NTRA for their generous donation of a Gator, which will be raffled off that day. You can purchase tickets online at pabred.com or through the PTHA at Parx. We hope to see a great crowd at the races to cheer on our PA-Breds in our third Million Dollar Day, including 5 $100,000 stakes. Go PA!!

2021 PENNSYLVANIA-BRED STAKES SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, APRIL 27 **PARX RACING**	**$100,000 PAGE MCKENNEY HANDICAP** 3 & up, 7 furlongs 1st - Wait For It, 2nd - Chilly in Charge, 3rd - Breezy Gust	**$100,000 UNIQUE BELLA STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 7 furlongs 1st - Chub Wagon, 2nd - Promised Storm, 3rd - Ujjayi
FRIDAY, MAY 28 **PENN NATIONAL**	**$100,000 LYPHARD STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 1/16 miles, turf	**$100,000 WITH ANTICIPATION STAKES** 3 & up, 1 1/16 miles, turf
TUESDAY, JUNE 22 **PARX RACING**	**$100,000 CROWD PLEASER STAKES** 3YO, 1 1/16 miles, turf	**$100,000 POWER BY FAR STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 5 furlongs, turf
MONDAY, JULY 19 **PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS**	**$100,000 MALVERN ROSE STAKES** 3YO fillies, 6½ furlongs	
MONDAY, JULY 26 **PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS**	**$100,000 PRINCESS OF SYLMAR STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 mile 70 yards	
TUESDAY, JULY 27 **PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS**	**$100,000 HARD SPUN STAKES** 3 & up, 1 mile 70 yards	
PENNSYLVANIA'S DAY AT THE RACES **MONDAY, AUGUST 23** **PARX RACING**	**$100,000 BANJO PICKER SPRINT STAKES** 3 & up, 6 furlongs **$100,000 MRS. PENNY STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 1/16 miles, turf	**$100,000 MARSHALL JENNEY HANDICAP** 3 & up, 5 furlongs, turf **$100,000 STORM CAT STAKES** 3 & up, 1 1/16 miles
	$100,000 DR. TERESA GAROFALO MEMORIAL STAKES 3 & up, fillies & mares, 6 furlongs	
MONDAY, SEPT. 13 **PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS**	**$100,000 FINEST CITY STAKES** 2YO fillies, 6 furlongs	**$100,000 MARK MCDERMOTT STAKES** 2YO, 6 furlongs
SATURDAY, SEPT. 25 **PARX RACING**	**$100,000 ALPHABET SOUP HANDICAP** 3 & up, 1 1/16 miles, turf	**$100,000 PLUM PRETTY STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 1/16 miles
FRIDAY, NOV. 26 **PENN NATIONAL**	**$100,000 SHAMROCK ROSE STAKES** 2YO fillies, 6 furlongs	
TUESDAY, DEC. 7 **PARX RACING**	**$100,000 PENNSYLVANIA NURSERY STAKES** 2YO, 7 furlongs	

PA-Bred Fund Statistics: Top Earners

January 1 through February 28, 2021

LEADING EARNERS - STALLION AWARDS

Stallion owner	Number of races	Earnings	Stallion owner	Number of races	Earnings
Northview Stallion Station Inc.	131	30,647	Barbara J. Geraghty	6	1,260
William J. Solomon VMD	59	15,944	Richard N. Miller	11	1,173
Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	37	14,004	Flint W. Stites	3	1,109
Glenn E. Brok LLC	28	10,100	Peter Giangiulio	9	1,012
Patricia L. Chapman	19	7,494	Vento Equine LLC	3	984
Godstone Farm LP	18	4,483	Henry R. Nothhaft	5	960
George Strawbridge Jr.	7	3,509	Judith M. Barrett	4	920
Fantasy Lane Stable Inc.	9	3,496	Gold Square LLC	4	894
Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	11	3,128	Steven W. Young Racing LLC dba A1A Racing	1	631
Luana J. Johnson	8	2,607	Fox Tale	3	611
Chuck Russo	3	1,896	Everest Stables Inc.	6	560
Michael W. Jester	7	1,484	Pewter Stable	5	554

LEADING STALLIONS

Fund Money includes Stallion Awards only

Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total	Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total
Jump Start	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	69	17,782	Golddigger's Boy	Luana J. Johnson	8	2,607
Weigelia	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	37	14,004	Il Villano	Chuck Russo	3	1,896
El Padrino	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	30	9,795	Medallist	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	9	1,648
Smarty Jones	Patricia L Chapman	19	7,494	Norman Asbjornson	William J. Solomon VMD	5	1,579
Uptowncharlybrown	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	20	6,625	Cat Thief	Michael W. Jester	5	1,484
Talent Search	Glenn E. Brok LLC	20	6,457	Power by Far	Barbara J. Geraghty	6	1,260
Albert the Great	William J. Solomon VMD	21	5,114	Emperor Tiberius	Richard N. Miller	10	1,173
Last Gunfighter	William J. Solomon VMD	12	4,924	Reflect Times	Flint W. Stites	3	1,109
Lord Shanakill	William J. Solomon VMD	12	4,328	Partner's Hero	Peter Giangiulio	8	1,012
Well Spelled	Godstone Farm LP	17	3,783	Wildcat Brief	Vento Equine LLC	3	984
Mad Flatter	Glenn E. Brok LLC	9	3,643	Silver Train	Henry R. Nothhaft	5	960
Rimrod	George Strawbridge Jr.	7	3,509	Activist	Judith M. Barrett	4	920

LEADING HORSES

Fund Money includes: PA-Bred Races, Breeder and Stallion Awards and PA-Bred Owner-Bonus Payments

Horse	Pedigree	Breeder	Races	Restricted	Stakes	Breeder Award	Stallion Award	Owner Bonus	Total
Beren *	Weigelia - Silmaril	Susan C. Quick	2	0	0	22,400	4,480	12,800	39,680
Breezy Gust	Great Notion - Takenbythebreeze	Michael Raymond Anspach	2	0	0	10,584	0	15,120	25,704
Market Maven	Super Ninety Nine - My Sonata	Gregory Gordon	2	0	0	11,988	0	9,840	21,828
Dollarization *	Last Gunfighter - Hygh Jacque	William J. Solomon VMD	2	0	0	12,444	2,623	4,372	19,439
Flattering Ruby *	Mad Flatter - Precious Lily	Luana J. Johnson	2	0	0	11,098	2,774	4,624	18,496
Admiral Abe	Midshipman - Precious Penny	James Walker	1	0	0	7,560	0	10,800	18,360
Irish Cork	Flat Out - Circustown Rose	Two-Turn Farm LLC	2	0	0	8,328	0	9,840	18,168
Checkbouncin Billy *	Rimrod - Monette	Richard Simoff	2	0	0	8,960	2,240	6,400	17,600
Chilly in Charge	Take Charge Indy - Holiday Chills	Horseshoe Valley Equine Center LLC	1	0	0	6,888	0	9,840	16,728
Madam Meena	Include - Good Tidings	Michael R. Cox	1	0	0	6,888	0	9,840	16,728
Lula's Roadrunner *	Uptowncharlybrown - Be Bop a Lula	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	1	0	0	8,400	2,100	6,000	16,500
Knockout Kick	Shackleford - Dixieland Knockout	Pewter Stable	1	0	0	6,720	0	9,600	16,320
Lady Progurt *	Talent Search - Youland	Glenn E. Brok LLC	1	0	0	8,820	1,764	5,040	15,624
Our Dixie Blue *	Weigelia - Dixiewood	Brian C. Schartz	1	0	0	8,820	1,764	5,040	15,624
Thiscatcanjump *	Jump Start - Cat Mistress	Richard A. Malouf	2	0	0	7,812	1,953	5,580	15,345
Prince of Rain *	El Padrino - Cimarron Rain	Angelo Zalalas	1	0	0	9,756	1,951	3,252	14,959
Sacred Sho Grl *	Lord Shanakill - Sho Grl Partner	Mary R. Szeyller	2	0	0	11,304	2,826	0	14,130
Artemis Rising *	Talent Search - Miss Foreesta	Glenn E. Brok LLC	1	0	0	7,056	1,764	5,040	13,860
Crazy Bea *	El Padrino - Weekends for Love	Jay Ar Dee Stables	1	0	0	8,064	2,016	3,360	13,440
Dilly Dilly Philly *	Jump Start - Judiane's Jubilee	David Charlton	4	0	0	6,720	1,680	4,800	13,200
Owin I Am *	Jump Start - Owin Sylvia	Lydee D. Shea	1	0	0	6,720	1,680	4,800	13,200
Octoraro Orphie *	Jump Start - Marquee Kelly	W M T Stables Inc.	3	0	0	10,112	2,528	0	12,640
Stonegate	Paynter - Lady Pomeroy	Whysper Wynd Farm LLC	1	0	0	5,670	0	6,480	12,150
Love On Fire	Friesan Fire - Love Has Foundaway	Thomas Finacchio	2	0	0	4,928	0	7,040	11,968

*Denotes PA-sired

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

April 2021

Brooklyn Strong en route to Churchhill Downs

Brooklyn Strong's Run For the Roses

Brooklyn Strong (Wicked Strong out of *Riviera Chic*, by *Medaglia D'oro*) heads to the 2021 Kentucky Derby as a last minute contender for trainer **Daniel Velazquez** and owner **Mark Schwartz**. Schwartz chose jockey **Umberto Rispoli** as the jockey to ride the 20th and final horse in the field for the Run for the Roses.

Parx Around the Ovals

April 23rd, 2021 - Bank On Shea (Central Banker out of *Miss Moultree,* by *Uncle Mo) won* the Affirmed Success Stakes at Belmont Park with jockey **Kendrick Carmouche** after pressure from rival *Wudda U Think Now* on the outside, for trainer **Tyler Servis** and owner **Shea D Boy's Stable**.

April 24th - Exogen (*Dialed In* out of *Run Zippy Run*, by *City Zip*) ran 4th in the Weber City Mist Stakes after a prominent start with jockey **Jevian Toledo** against winner *Miss Leslie* at Pimlico for trainer **Miguel Penaloza** and owner **Nauticat Racing.**

April 24th - Completed Pass (*Pass Rush* out of *Christina's Gold*, by *Gold Token*) won the King T. Leatherbury Stakes with jockey **Angel Cruz** at Pimlico for trainer **Claudio Gonzalez** and owner **Robert D. Bone** after a tenacious finish against rival *Francatelli*.

PTHA Peaks @ parx racing

April 6th – Twirling Liz (*Twirling Candy* out of *Less Traveled*, by *Gottcha Gold*) won the 6th race with jockey **Mychel Sanchez**, for trainer **Kate DeMasi** and owner **Pewter Stable and Spedale Family Racing, LLC**, going 7 furlongs on a fast track. The Kentucky bred mare set the pace, raced with a clear lead, and held on late against rival *Lady Fox*.

April 6th – Know It Now (*American Pharoah* out of *Before You Know It*, by *Hard Spun*) won the Maiden Special Weight race with jockey **Mychel Sanchez**, for trainer **Philip Aristone** and owner **Jack Armstrong**, just lasting against rival *Bode O* in the stretch.

April 6th – Pennyslvania Bred *Irish Cork* (*Flat Out* out of *Circustown Rose*, by *Wimbledon*) won the 10th race with jockey **Mychel Sanchez**, for trainer **John C. Servis** and owner **Irish Three Racing LLC**. *Irish Cork* was in hand for the *(continued...)*

Join our hosts Dani Gibson and Dick Jerardi for the latest in Thoroughbred news, behind the scenes access, and more every **Saturday at 10am on PHL-17!**

PTHA Winter Trophy Race Winners

Date	Horse	Jockey	Trainer	Owner
4-7-21	Intervention	Luis Rivera	Herold Whylie	Kirk Nesbeth
4-14-21	Did I Stutter	Ruben Silvera	Lou Linder, Jr.	Double B Racing Stable
4-21-21	Celtic Treasure	Ruben Silvera	Jamie Ness	Morris Kernan, Jr. & Jagger Inc.
4-28-21	Sugar Streak	Luis Villanueva	Edward Coletti, Jr.	Abhyasa Racing

final yards and battled it out against *Hibachi* in the final stretch going 1 mile and 70 yards, coming in 1-2-3 in all of his 14 lifetime starts.

April 7th – Intervention (*Effinex* out of *Dollar Mama*, by *Rockport Harbor*) won the PTHA Trophy Race at Parx going 5 ½ furlongs for the Maiden Claiming $17,000 purse. The 3-year-old New York bred filly dueled it out against rival *Oak Creek Canyon* after gaining a short lead on the turn and prevailed with jockey **Luis Rivera**, for trainer **Herold Whylie** and owner **Kirk Nesbeth**.

April 13th - Three-year-old filly *Confirmed Genius* (*Weigelia* out of *Cryptic Kate*, by *Crypto Star*) won the 4th race with jockey **Frankie Pennington** after an early lead for trainer *Butch Reid* and owner **Cash Is King LLC and LC Racing LLC**.

April 13th – The New York bred gelding *Open Lengths* (*Lea* out of *Madame Pele*, by *Salt Lake*) vied between rivals and won the 6th race going a 1 mile distance with jockey **Ruben Silvera**, for trainer **Mertkan Kantarmaci** and owner **Krakow Racing LLC**.

April 14th – The 4-year-old Ontario bred filly *Did I Stutter* (*Alternation* out of *Feisty*, by *Ready's Image*) won the PTHA Trophy Race (Starter Allowance) going 1 mile and 70 yards with jockey **Ruben Silvera**, for owner **Double B Racing Stable**, giving trainer **Lou Linder, Jr.** an impressive fourth consecutive win.

April 20th - The beautiful gray Pennsylvania bred filly *Cartouche* (*Liam's Map* out of *Garnet Crystals*, by *Lion Heart* broke her maiden by winning the 8th race with jockey **Frankie Pennington**, for trainer **John Servis** and owner **Main Line Racing Stable**.

April 21st - Aussie Mist (*Cat Theif* out of *Salishan*, by *Banker's Gold*) won the first race after repelling a strong challenge in the mid stretch with jockey **Dexter Haddock**, for trainer/owner **Jamie Bravo-Estrada**.

April 27th - The undefeated *Chub Wagon* (*Hey Chub* out of *Takin the Plunge*, by *Lion Heart*) won the $100,000 Unique Bella Stakes against *Promised Storm* with jockey **Jomar Torres**, keeping her perfect record of five straight victories for trainer **Guadalupe Preciado** and owner **Daniel J. Lopez** and **George Chestnut**.

April 27th - Wait For It (*Uptowncharlybrown* out of *Kimberley Diamond*, by *Posse*) showed up again by winning the $100,000 Page McKenney Handicap in a bold late rally against *Chilly in Charge* with jockey **Anthony Nunez**, for trainer **Edward Coletti, Jr.** and owner **Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC**.

April 28th - Sugar Streak (*Creative Cause* out of *Elusive Sugar,* by *Elusive Quality*) won the PTHA Trophy Race for fillies and mares going 1 mile for the $200,000 purse with jockey **Luis Villanueva**, for trainer **Edward Coletti, Jr.** and owner **Abhyasa Racing**.

April 28th - *Cloud Skipping* (*Uncle Lino* out of *On A High Cloud*) won the 4th race with jockey **Silverstre Gonzalez** aboard for trainer **Jimmy Nolan** and owner **Ernsto Padilla-Preciado**.

April 28th - La Waun (*The Pamplemousse* out of *Lucky Leah*, by *Kentucky Lucky*) won the 7th race with jockey **Jeremy Laprida** for owners **John Parker** and **Michael Pimentel**, giving trainer **Ernesto Padilla-Preciado** his second victory of the day.

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SCTOBA

South Carolina

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER JUNE 2021

Racing Across the Nation

Dublinornothin and Shaker Shack garnered stakes victories in March and April. Both went through the breaking process at Travis Durr's Webb Carroll Training Center in St. Matthews.

Dublinornothin captured the Belle Gallantey Stakes March 27 at Aqueduct. Stalking the leader early on, Dublinornothin was laying third between foes. This New York-bred 5-year-old daughter of Dublin took the lead inside the eighth pole and drew clear winning by 1¾ lengths. She is owned and trained by Eduardo Jones. In 28 career starts, Dublinornothin has eight wins, six seconds and five third place finishes and pushed her career earnings of $195,800.

Shaker Shack proved best in Aqueduct's New York Stallion Stakes April 18. This daughter of Bustin Stones ran alongside another filly before taking the lead nearing the three-eighths pole. She relinquished her advantage before coming on again in the stretch crossing the finish line 1½ lengths in front. Trained by Patrick Reynolds, Shaker Shack is owned by Roddy Valente and Darlene Bilinski.

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This and That

■ SCTOBA member Cary Frommer headed a consignment at the Ocala Breeders' Company April rendition that ran from April 20 through April 23. She sold five–a colt and four fillies. The fillies by Connect, Street Boss, Liam's Map and Mohaymen and the colt by Empire Maker brought a total of $560,000. The Connect filly led the way bringing a final bid of $170,000. OBS will conduct one more 2-year-old sale in June.

■ SCTOBA members Randy and Kala Rentz report American Bound, a daughter of American Freedom, won the first 2-year-old race for fillies at Keeneland April 2. Having just left Rentz Farm 11 days before making her debut, American Bound broke on top and never looked back during this 4½-furlong dash. She won by 1½ lengths.

■ On April 15 at Oaklawn Park, Reason to Soar, a graduate of SCTOBA Board member Kip Elser's Kirkwood Stables' program in Camden, recorded his 10th career victory. This is an achievement not often seen in today's racing world. In 31 career starts, Reason

continued next page

New addition to Mary and Al Quarles' family, a colt by their stallion Gran Duque out of Minimambo born March 3 at Ketchen Place Farm.

This and that *continued*

to Soar has 10 wins, four seconds and five third-place finishes with earnings of $298,717.

■ Sosua was a most impressive winner in her racing debut at Tampa Bay Downs March 31. She set the pace and in the stretch quickly pulled away to win by 12¾ lengths. Sosua was prepared for her racing career by Brad Stauffer and Ron Stevens' Legacy Stable in Aiken and she is owned by South Carolina native Mark Grier.

SOUTH CAROLINA-TRAINED WINNERS

Horse	*Training Center*	*Date*	*Track*	*Type of Race*
Cartouche	Rentz Farm	4/20/21	Parx Racing	Maiden Special Weight
SHAKER SHACK	Webb Carroll Training Center	4/18/21	Aqueduct	New York Stallion S
Take Me Home	Custom Care - D. Freyer	4/16/21	Charles Town	Allowance
Reason to Soar	Kirkwood Stables	4/15/21	Oaklawn Park	Allowance
Angry American	Webb Carroll Training Center	4/13/21	Keeneland	Allowance
Novel Squall	McCutchen Training Center	4/11/21	Oaklawn Park	Allowance
Hemp	Webb Carroll Training Center	4/10/21	Laurel Park	Allowance
Zanesville	Webb Carroll Training Center	4/10/21	Keeneland	Allowance
Classy Chrome	Custom Care - D. Freyer	4/9/21	Tampa Bay	Maiden Special Weight
Nerves of Steel	Rentz Farm	4/9/21	Golden Gate	Maiden Special Weight
Irish Cork	Rentz Farm	4/6/21	Parx Racing	Allowance
Malibu Marlee	Kirkwood Stables	4/3/21	Oaklawn Park	Allowance
Reason to Soar	Kirkwood Stables	4/2/21	Oaklawn Park	Allowance
American Bound	Rentz Farm	4/2/21	Keeneland	Maiden Special Weight
Incite	Rentz Farm	3/31/21	Parx Racing	Allowance
Double Doink	Rentz Farm	3/31/21	Parx Racing	Allowance
Sosua	Aiken - Legacy Stable	3/31/21	Tampa Bay	Maiden Special Weight
I'm Looking Up	Kirkwood Stables	3/30/21	Delta Downs	Allowance
Al Rhythm	Webb Carroll Training Center	3/30/21	Turf Paradise	Allowance
Ornamental Iron	Aiken - Cary Frommer	3/30/21	Turf Paradise	Allowance
Precious	Rentz Farm	3/29/21	Parx Racing	Allowance
DUBLINORNOTHIN	Webb Carroll Training Center	3/27/21	Aqueduct	Belle Gallantey S
Take Me Home	Custom Care - D. Freyer	3/24/21	Charles Town	Allowance
Silent Malice	Webb Carroll Training Center	3/21/21	Laurel Park	Allowance

VIRGINIA

Virginia's Horse Breeding and Racing Industry Produces Over $542 Million Economic Impact

"And they're off…" When it comes to the horse racing industry in Virginia and the economic impact it is generating, that's an appropriate metaphor. According to a newly released study, the industry generated an estimated economic impact of $542.1 million in the Commonwealth in 2019.

"What we're finding is that jobs are coming back, horse racing related expenditures are up, and tax revenue to the state is increasing," said John Hannum, VEA Executive Director. "Racing was at a low point in 2014 after the closure of Colonial Downs' racetrack. The General Assembly took a number of steps, most notably the passage of Historical Horse Racing machines in 2018, that provided the revenue to re-open the track and fund the revitalization of the industry. The study points to the enormous strides the industry has made since 2014."

Highlights of the new study include:

- Overall economic impact for 2019 of $542.1 million.
- Annual horse-related expenditures by Virginia horsemen estimated at $239.44 million in 2019.
- Overall total in state tax revenue for 2019 estimated at $26.5 million.
- Estimated total economic impact of horse racing events and visitor spending in Virginia was $68.7 million in 2019.
- Jobs supported in 2019 by the horse racing and breeding industry estimated at more than 5,000.
- The average amount spent by horsemen in Virginia to care for, train, and board a race horse is estimated at $14,663.

"The industry is an important part of our agriculture economy, especially in rural parts of Virginia," said Bettina Ring, Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry. "A successful horse industry means that more farms remain economically viable, which in turn makes it easier to maintain and conserve productive farmland throughout the Commonwealth."

A copy of the complete report can be found at virginiahorseracing.com

Colonial Downs Summer Thoroughbred Racing Season to Kick Off July 19

A total of 25 stakes races worth over $2.7 million will be contested at the upcoming seven-week thoroughbred racing season at Colonial Downs, headlined by the Grade 3, $250,000 New Kent County Virginia Derby. The meet will run from July 19 - September 1 with racing every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 1:45 PM.

Virginia Derby Day is scheduled for Tuesday August 31, and in addition to the 18th annual renewal that features some of the country's top trainers, jockeys and three-year-old turf horses, four other grass stakes will be on the card --- the $150,000 Virginia Oaks, $150,000 Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance Old Nelson Stakes, $100,000 Exacta Systems Rosie's Stakes and $100,000 Kitten's Joy Stakes.

Colonial Downs will play host to four $100,000 stakes in the Mid-Atlantic Championship Series (MATCH) Series on Monday August 23, and all will be held on dirt --- the Victory Gallop, Love Sign, Chesapeake and Seeking The Pearl.

Twelve stakes worth a combined $1.2 million will be offered between Virginia-bred, sired and certified horses.

Six $100,000 turf stakes for Virginia-bred/sired horses are slated, including five on closing day's card. The Jamestown, Camptown, Brookmeade, Edward P. Evans and Punch Line will highlight the September 1 finale while a sixth, the Nellie Mae Cox, is part of opening day's card. All are black-type events except for the Punch Line.

An additional six non-black-type Virginia-restricted turf stakes, also at the $100,000 purse level, are available to Virginia-bred, Virginia-sired AND Virginia-certified horses. The Bert Allen, Meadow Stable and M. Tyson Gilpin Stakes highlight opening day's card while another pair, the Hickory Tree and Keswick Stables sprint stakes, are on August 2. The Van Clief Stakes is a week later on August 9 and will co-headline with the $75,000 Randolph Rouse Steeplechase Stakes that day.

Purses at the upcoming meet will revert back to 2019 levels and average $500,000 per day. All owners who start a horse will receive the greater of $1,000 or their share of the purse money from the race. All trainers will receive $300 per horse started. The Colonial Downs barn area will open on July 5. Stall applications, a condition book, complete stakes schedule and more information is at colonialdowns.com.

Virginia's Spring Point-to-Point Season Concludes; Virginia Gold Cup Races Set For May 29

Virginia's Point-to-Point season came to a close May 9 when the last of seven spring meets was contested at Middleburg's Glenwood Park. A total of 62 horses competed that day in a mix of hurdle, timber and flat races. The season kicked off March 13 at the Airlie Race Course in Warrenton. The VEA again sponsored a Starter Rewards incentive program, which provided every Virginia trained or owned horse that competed a $200 per start bonus.

The Middleburg Spring Races, first Virginia-based NSA sanctioned steeplechase meet of the year, took place May 1, also at Glenwood Park. A total of $220,000 in purse monies was distributed among eight races including $75,000 in the featured Temple Gwathmey Stakes (Gr. 2). Jack Fisher's Snap Decision took the feature with his eighth straight win which pushed his bankroll to $498,334. The 7-year-old Hard Spun gelding also won the David Semmes Memorial at Great Meadow last June during the Virginia Gold Cup Races.

The 2021 Gold Cup Races will be held May 29 and tailgating, in limited numbers, will be available. The event, which normally attracts 60,000-plus fans, expects between 10,000 - 15,000 fans in socially distanced rail spots around the massive venue. Details are at vagoldcup.com.

PHOTO CAPTIONS:
Caption 1 - The VTA's robust Certified Residency Program has helped fuel business to the state's horse farms and training centers. VEA photo.
Caption 2 - A four-pack of $100,000 dirt stakes will be carded at Colonial on August 23 as part of the MATCH Series. VEA photo.
Caption 3 - Camptown Stakes winner What The Beep in the 2020 edition at Colonial. The 2021 stakes will be contested September 1. Photo by Coady Photography.
Caption 4 - Snap Decision, on his way to an 8th straight win May 1 in the Temple Gwathmey Stakes at Glenwood Park. Photo by Douglas Lees.

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Virginia Breeders Fund

West Virginia
THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Newsletter June 2021

Mike Schiano Di Cola is Molto Grato

Italy has a long history of emigration, as their citizenry have sought financial opportunities around the globe.

For Michael Schiano Di Cola it was an undeniable element in departing home and heritage; but no matter how far he travels family remains the cardinal principal and driving force behind his impressive work ethic, intense faith and thriving entrepreneurship.

I was able to catch-up with Mike and his longtime business associate Amanda Moro to discuss horses and future plans for his commercial Thoroughbred enterprise.

Born and raised outside of Naples, Mike's life changed forever when he visited his older brother Raimondo in New York City.

That experience combined with the closeness of the two siblings led him to make the transition stateside.

"I headed to the land of opportunity to learn the restaurant business from the ground up," said Mike.

Years later, a wife, four children and ceaseless hours of labor, Mike was in a position to again copy his brother, this time venturing into the dynamic world of horse racing.

Raimondo Schiano Di Cola initially discovered racing as an owner, ultimately converting occupations to a full-time Thoroughbred trainer.

Mike never envisioned himself in that capacity, but visualized several options for partnerships in either racing or breeding.

"I saw opportunities to enlist my close friends, Antonio Scotto Di Carlo and Mike Fascelli (Scuderia Montese Stable), as a way of deflecting risk, sharing fun and providing a diversion from work," he remembers. "However, I needed to make a case for my ability and that highlight came via the claim box. My very first horse was named Kyoko and his success (in the mid-1990s) lit a fire in me that persists today.

Mike Schiano Di Cola has had success as a breeder and owner, a favorite being stakes winner Gabriel's Smile (above).

"One of the partnership's most memorable moments was the claim of Shesagrumptoo (in 2008) for $32,000, a then record price at Charles Town, who proceeded (in her next start) to finish second in the $500,000 Cavada Stakes; but I wasn't satisfied."

Mike was on a personal quest to target an aspect of this industry that would leave a lasting impression on his soul. He wanted a process where he could select a stallion and mare and evaluate that foal for sales or racing potential.

That subjective approach was partially realized in 2006, when he bought a weanling son of Five Star Day out of Like a Woman from the Keeneland sale for $7,000.

Three years later his investment, Gabriel's Smile, scored at first asking by a resounding 10¾ lengths.

"It was like a fairy tale to have a horse win that I named for my son and conditioned by my brother," he said. "Gabriel's Smile would go on to earn just shy of $200,000, adding wins in the Coin Collector and It's Only Money Stakes. This horse will always be extra special. Amanda, a devoted advocate of Thoroughbred Aftercare Programs, has him as a permanent resident at her Jefferson County farm."

Gabriel's Smile set the stage for Mike to embrace racing in a manner that pacified his economic and intellectual side.

A further successful collaborative effort by Team Scuderia Montese was West Virginia-bred Paco Smart, who went on earn $309,446.

The son of Aragorn (Ire) was purchased for $16,000 as a yearling at Keeneland and won the West Virginia Vincent Moscarelli Memorial, Tri-State Futurity and West Virginia Lottery Breeders Classic.

"My involvement, whether individually or in partnerships, is aided by my relationship with two extraordinary women. In the last 10 years, I have leaned heavily on Amanda Moro to care and nurture our growing band of broodmares and foals, while Carrie Brogden (Machmer Hall) is my bloodline guru and boots on the ground in Kentucky. We use a combination of pedigree and conformation as our breeding program motto, while sire power commands our attention for commercial purposes."

That assemblage of gifts has placed Mike and his group on the proverbial map, but it was the pairing of Flatter (sire) and Comedy (dam) that elevated the operation to a new level of notoriety.

Mike's voice raised an octave when the conversation shifted to his star pupil.

Amanda sat in, surrounded by the ambient noise of neighing foals, as the two regaled me with their once-in-a-lifetime narrative.

In her best British accent, Amanda started, "I think you have to understand how volatile the breeding industry is and the financial risk one undertakes. Mike and his partners realize, through experience, the schemes and dreams of playing in the big leagues."

In this game of chess it appears mares are used as interchangeable parts and foals as pieces of a racing puzzle.

It's like the stock market, except here the value of a mare is only as good as her last foal and the popularity of a stallion his progeny's last effort.

In November 2012, Mike purchased Comedy, a daughter of champion Theatrical (Ire) out of Don't Be Silly, at the Keeneland Breeding stock sale for $24,000.

She was in foal to Flatter, a son of A.P. Indy and sire of local racing legend Lucy's Big Boy ($1 million earner).

The outcome of that union was a filly named Stoweshoe and in 2014 she went to the Saratoga select yearling sale.

Said Mike: "Trainer Jeff Runco and one of his best clients, David Raim, were interested in this filly from the get go. Already having a strong business relationship with both men, when the hammer dropped at $95,000, they were the new owners. Stoweshoe only started four times, managed to win a stake, but proved a sound investment. Aided by the popularity of her dam, Stoweshoe sold at the 2016 Keeneland mixed sale for $330,000. A few months earlier Comedy sold in foal to Tapit for $1.5 million."

"There is a very small window of opportunity in this business," said Amanda. "You have to be prepared to buy or sell on a moments notice."

Mike notes, "Presently we have 12 broodmares split equally between Kentucky and West Virginia. I've tried to upgrade my female line and generally seek value in breeding to freshman sires. West Virginia is home and I will continue to foal here, because it's a good program. However, breeders in the know, especially commercial ones, recognize legislative relief is a necessity to survive."

Mike and Amanda insisted I check out a colt by Tonalist who was peering inquisitively over the stall guard with his mother Holiday Shopping (Harlan's Holiday), as if listening to our conversation.

I was awestruck at the majesty of this mare, her immaculate coat and sporty six-day-old foal at her side.

Mike blessed himself stating, "Hopefully this is the next big thing."

My only response was, "Bring your checkbook. This one is coming to a select sale near you!"

Benefits of Owning a WV-Bred and/or -Sired racehorse

Some of the best incentives in the nation:

- A minimum of three accredited races are written every day at Charles Town exclusively for registered WV-bred and/or -sired horses.
- West Virginia has the only program in the country that permits horses to win state-bred races that do not count against the horse's lifetime open conditions.
- The WV Thoroughbred Development Fund distributes almost $5 million to breeders, owners, and stallion owners of accredited WV-bred and/or -sired horses based the horse's annual earnings at Charles Town and Mountaineer Park racetracks.
- The West Virginia Breeders Classics pays out almost $1 million in purses for WV-bred and/or -sired horses. It is held annually on the second Saturday in October.
- $800,000 in purses are allocated for up to 16 WV accredited stakes races during the year.
- Supplemental Purse Awards of up to 10% of the winner's share of the purse to the owner, breeder, and/or sire owner of the accredited WV-bred and/or -sired winner.
- West Virginia offers year-round racing with approximately 300 race days per year.

West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association

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Chasing
Brought to you by the Temple Gwathmey Steeplechase Foundation

Follow the bouncing ball to discover the unexpected steeplechase-polo link

By Betsy Burke Parker

On the surface, steeplechase and polo appear to have little in common on the horse sports spectrum. Hurtling over hurdles isn't a lot like swatting a small wooden ball around a level grass court.

But don't get caught up in the minutia.

Study a little closer, and similarities swim to the surface. Both sports favor swiftness and bravery at their very essence, each drawing heavily on the raw power of the thoroughbred, calling on hundreds of years of selective breeding for speed and stamina.

It makes perfect sense that racing horsemen and women are often lured into polo. Those that play both contend that the precision in the swing of a polo mallet connecting with a 3-inch ball at a flat-out run compares neatly to finding a perfect, efficient take-off spot for a 4-foot tall hurdle at 30 miles an hour.

Steeplechase and polo require fitness and balance, athleticism and tenacity. Reaction time is critical.

It's a weird juncture of living in the moment but thinking 20 strides ahead at the same time, says polo umpire and longtime steeplechase horsewoman Beth Supik.

"To be in control, sometimes, you have to let go of that control," Supik says. "You can't manhandle a racehorse, you can't manhandle a polo pony and have them work for you, work with you. To be powerful, sometimes you have to be powerless.

Beth Supik (assistant to steeplechase trainer Cyril Murphy) battles against Parker Pearce, son of NSA steward Ross Pearce, nephew of Turney & Liz McKnight.
©Paul Zappala

"(Hall of Fame trainer) Mike Smithwick once told me that 'you've gotta be brave enough (as a rider) to slip the reins. 'Take it to the knot,' he'd say. It's the rider's job to work with the horse, and sometimes that means helping by staying out of the way.

"That's the kind of bravery you need (to excel) at either one of those sports."

There's plenty of cross-pollination between polo and jump racing, says Peter Arundel, who helped his father, the late Arthur W. "Nick" Arundel, build

What's it take?

Longtime polo player and race exercise rider Beth Supik explains that steeplechase and polo have a ton in common.

"I think hitting a ball and jumping a fence are really relative," she says. "The same principles apply – timing, you want the horse straight, you want the horse forward thinking, working in balance.

"Both (types of horses and riders) have a very similar positive attitude. You certainly want a horse to be brave and have some grit.

"The main thing I find with horses – any type – is rhythm. Jumping a line of jumps or hitting a ball, it's all about the rhythm, no matter what kind of saddle you're in.

"With polo, have to have guts, you've gotta be able to leave the saddle to make (all kinds of) shots. A tail shot, a back shot, a neck shot. You're not sitting square in the saddle.

"There are certain fundamentals that serve all outdoor horse sports well. Positivity, humility, open-mindedness, attention to details, strong work ethic and selflessness."

the polo arena and field at Great Meadow in the early 1990s. The senior Arundel had carved out the field events center near The Plains, Virginia in the early 1980s as home to the Virginia Gold Cup races.

Ever the innovator, promoter and a lifelong supporter of horse sports, Nick Arundel took son Peter's advice regarding the potential for growth from polo.

They formed the Great Meadow Polo Club, first building an enclosed arena, later adding a grass field.

Great Meadow Polo took a page from the Great Meadow steeplechase playbook to attract paying – and, occasionally, playing – customers out to the country to enjoy an afternoon or evening filled with sport and socializing. Like steeplechase, polo soon became "the place to be" for Saturday Twilight Polo matches under the lights, Arundel says, with music, food trucks, railside boxes and an announcer that explained as much as he called the action.

It was a winning combination.

"If you think about it, it's pretty natural," connecting steeplechase and polo, Peter Arundel says. Many racing horsemen and women are involved in both, from polo patron and leading steeplechase owner Gill Johnston to former jump jockey, polo player and race director Liz McKnight, from former amateur owner-rider and polo facility developer Nelson Gunnell to the late Tom Voss – rider then trainer then avid polo player.

Great Meadow Twilight Polo
@Betsy Burke Parker

Peter Arundel adds that the deeper the connection to the horse world already, the more likely a new polo conversion was likely. "We found the ones that stick with polo tended to already be in the horse community. The people come out from the suburbs and the city on weekends and watch, and some of them come and take lessons, but the ones that really get into it – like Maureen Brennan (she formed Virginia International Polo and created a polo empire at historic Llangollen Farm in Upperville, Virginia) or Nelson Gunnell (he carved out Banbury Cross field and arena at his former farm in Middleburg, Virginia) – they were already in (the horse world.)

"But, there's spectacular entertainment value, from polo, from steeplechase."

By the numbers

Modern polo is still played in two distinct formats: arena and outdoor, or field, polo. The concepts are similar but the playing surfaces and the rules are slightly different.

Arena:

Enclosed, sand-covered stadium
150 by 300 feet.
Four 7 1/2-minute chukkers
Three players per team
Ball similar to a mini soccer ball
Can be played in a lighted arena, with railside spectators literally "part of the game" as horses dash past mere inches from tailgate parties

Field:

Grass playing field
160 by 300 yards (the size of 10 football fields)
Four players per team
Ball of plastic or wood, at 3" in diameter, smaller than a baseball.
Six 7-minute chukkers
Field action is much faster than in the arena, but it is often far away from spectators. Bring binoculars if you want to follow the game.

The Creation of Twilight Polo

Peter Arundel grew up hunting with the Middleburg Orange County Beagles and event training with Olympian Jimmy Wofford. "But I'd never played polo," he says. "I was at a black tie affair in Washington, D.C. and met (big) Joe Muldoon. You know how you get to talking and reach 'horses' in about two sentences. He invited me to play up at Potomac with them.

"I'm surprised I hadn't thought of it before. I loved riding, I loved team sports, was good at ball sports in school. Joe Junior showed me the ropes, and I played a season there with him and his brother Charlie.

"I was talking to my dad one day and was saying how there's not much polo in Virginia, and how I was tired of driving all the way to Maryland to play, and how he had this new place Great Meadow, and how it was a natural. Arena polo was the plan to bring the polo to the people. It was how we could involve spectators, play under the lights and capture a whole new crowd, both horse people (from other horse sports) plus people coming out from the city.

"You know how my dad was, he was pretty theatrical. He put his hand on his forehead and said, 'My god! There's nothing to do around here on Friday nights! This will be perfect!"

The Great Meadow polo arena was an instant success, with Twilight Polo games on Friday nights the first few years eventually swapping to Saturday nights as more spectators came out from Washington, D.C. and surrounding suburbs. Weekend traffic proved more palatable than Friday afternoon trying to head west on I-66.

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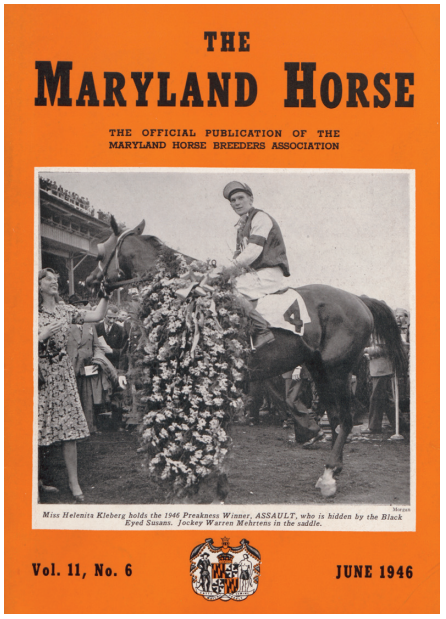
Looking Back


THE
MARYLAND HORSE
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
MARYLAND HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Miss Helenita Kleberg holds the 1946 Preakness Winner, ASSAULT, who is hidden by the Black Eyed Susans. Jockey Warren Mehrtens in the saddle.
Vol. 11, No. 6
JUNE 1946

75 years ago

■ The largest crowd in Maryland turf history—42,000—turned out at Pimlico for the Preakness, and they poured $2 million through the windows, the first time the betting figure had ever been reached. King Ranch's Kentucky Derby winner Assault held off Lord Boswell for the win. Humphrey Finney gave his account for May 11: "A great crowd was out at Old Hilltop today, and a fine race they saw. Assault got knocked about a bit and seemed straight as a string at the finish, but the important thing was, it was his nose that was in front at the end. Pimlico makes every attempt to make the best of its antiquated facilities, but the number of people who would like to have a bet and won't face the jam on a big day is large. It will be a great day when the place is finally modernized or moved."

■ An important step was taken by Maryland's major tracks in support of Thoroughbred breeding in the state with the formation of a series of "Breeders' Stakes" for 2-year-olds sponsored by each of the mile tracks—Pimlico, Havre de Grace, Laurel and Bowie.

The series would launch in 1947 and the races would include Breeders' awards, to be deducted from the added money in each race and paid back to third place. In order to be eligible for the races, a $10 fee due September of the Maryland-bred's yearling year was to be paid to the Maryland Horse Breeders Association. The tracks had slightly different conditions for the stakes—the Pimlico Breeders' Stakes (the first of the series, to run during the spring meet) was for fillies foaled in the state. The final race of the series, at Bowie in the fall, was open to colts and fillies, but they had to be foaled in the state as well as sired by a Maryland stallion.

The complete series ran through 1951, until the closure of Havre de Grace. The Bowie Breeders' Stakes lasted through 1963—the track's early winter meet put an end to the juvenile race. The race at Pimlico last ran in 1965. The Maryland Futurity for Maryland-bred and sired runners—first offered in 1931 and the impetus for the series—had its last running in 1981. The list of Laurel winners included Challedon, Dancer's Image, Speed to Spare, Tuscany, Jackie Dare, Miss Spin, Cojak and Mister Diz.

■ The 12th annual Maryland-bred yearling show was held on the clubhouse lawn at Pimlico two days before the Preakness. Veteran trainer Preston M. Burch was judge and selected as champion Sylvester Labrot Jr.'s *Quatre Bras II colt. Reserve champion went to Christiana Stable's colt by Maryland stallion Briarlet.

50 years ago

■ With the Olympics a year away, 21-year-old Bruce Davidson, a graduate of McDonogh School in Pikesville, Md., was attempting to make the United States Equestrian Team's Olympic squad.

Over the previous two years, USET coaches received applications from up to 160 aspiring three-day event riders. From those, 15 to 20 rookie riders were invited to the USET headquarters in Gladstone, N.J. Only Davidson and twin brothers James and David Powers from Massachusetts remained.

One of the three horses Davidson worked with was his own 6-year-old Maryland-bred Thoroughbred named Murmansk (pictured right), considered a prospect for the 1976 Olympics.

Davidson, a USET Hall of Famer, was on five Olympic teams, winning four Olympic medals in team eventing—silver in 1972 and 1996, and gold in 1976 and 1984—although none were aboard Murmansk.

■ Just weeks after representing Maryland proudly when finishing third in the Kentucky Oaks, the Eddie Gaudet-trained At Arms Length, bred in the state by E. Taylor Chewning, won Pimlico's Black-Eyed Susan Stakes for owners Fendall Clagett and Giant Food Store partners Israel "Izzy" Cohen, his brother Emanuel Cohen and sister Lillian Solomon. Movette, a Virginia-bred by Cyane, finished a length back in second.

■ William S. Miller's homebred colt Bee Bee Bee was another Maryland-bred winner at the Pimlico meet, defeating nine others in a state-bred maiden special weight for 2-year-olds May 11.

A little over a year later the son of Better Bee, by then owned by William S. Farish, was the surprise winner of the Preakness.

25 years ago

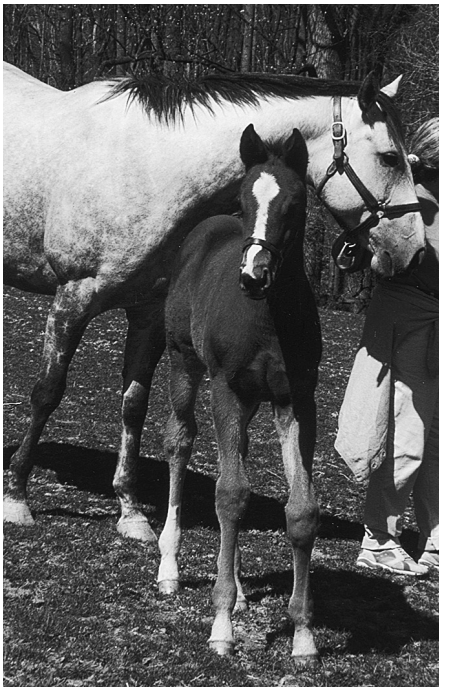
Over the third in the 1996 Maryland Hunt Cup, left to right, Hello Hal (Billy Meister aboard), Welter Weight (Joe Davies) and Buck Jakes (Anne Moran).

■ The Maryland timber season was full of surprises, and one of those most surprised was Billy Meister, trainer and rider of "quintessential underdog" Hello Hal, winner of the 100th running of the Maryland Hunt Cup. Five started in the race, including defending champ Buck Jakes and rising star Welter Weight, winner of the Grand National the week before, but coming up to the final fence only two remained. Florida Law and Johnny Bosley held a clear lead until the gray bobbled and lost his rider at the 22nd fence. From there it was clear sailing for Jay Griswold and Doug Croker's Club Hal Stables colorbearer Hello Hal; Bosley remounted and finished second. For Meister, it was his third win in the timber classic, after which he noted: "These things happen; that's the Hunt Cup."

Buck Jakes returned to win the next year, Florida Law won in 1998 and Welter Weight took the trophy in 1999.

■ Maryland-based trainer Dale Capuano, 33, got his 1,000th win that March with Verdictum at Laurel Park. His first winner, Who's Lucky, won 15 years earlier at Bowie.

One of Maryland's all-time leading trainers, Capuano has added another 2,537 wins (through April 29) in the 25 years since. His best year, by both money won ($4,397,048) and number of wins (235), was in 2001 when his runners made 948 starts.



Maryland-bred royalty: Future Grade 1 winner/ producer Hookedonthefeelin (by Citidancer), the first foal for her stakes-winning dam Prospective Joy.

10 years ago

■ Charles Town's all-time leading trainer Jeff Runco reached the 3,000-win milestone—but that was only part of his story. With wife Susan, theRuncos—both former jockeys—maintained a busy schedule as owners of Coleswood Farm, breeders, and auction buyers and sellers, in addition to running the stable. "Susan does the mares, babies, layups that are getting legged-up on the machine, young horses—just everything that goes on here," said Jeff. "As well as the accounting, office work, payroll, taxes, workers' comp. . ." Stable stars over the years included graded stakes-winning millionaire Researcher, who captured the first two runnings of the Charles Town Classic, and homebred Sea Rescue, winner of the previous year's West Virginia Breeders Classic.

■ A family tradition continued as Julie Colhoun and her son Dan sent out Private Attack to win the Maryland Hunt Cup under their Sportsmans Hall colors. Julie Colhoun's father, Janon Fisher Jr., trained Blockade to three consecutive Hunt Cup wins (1938-40) and was the breeder of the legendary Mountain Dew (three wins, three seconds and a third in eight Hunt Cup starts). Colhoun's brother Janon Fisher III rode Mountain Dew.

Aboard Private Attack was 42-year-old Blythe Miller Davies, who had been away from riding races for nearly nine years and only agreed to ride the 12-year-old New Jersey-bred gelding trained by Alicia Murphy at Elkridge-Harford earlier in the spring. The duo also won the Grand National the week before.

Davies went out on a high note as the Hunt Cup was the final sanctioned ride of the Grade 1-winning National Steeplechase Association champion jockey's 1,143-start career.

■ The first ever graded stakes to be run at Charles Town—the $1 million Charles Town Classic-G3—attracted a full field of 10, all graded winners, to the 6-furlong oval. Duke of Mischief, ridden by Joe Bravo, defeated Game On Dude, with Tizway third.

■ Top-class sprinter Fabulous Strike, off for nearly 18 months due to a near-career-ending ligament injury, returned a winner in a Penn National allowance in April. His prior start was a second in Belmont Park's Vosburgh Stakes-G1 in October 2009, a race the Pennsylvania-bred won in 2007.

The gelded son of Smart Strike, bred and owned by Walter Downey's Tea Party Stable, exited the Vosburgh with the injury and underwent stem-cell therapy at New Bolton Center. He recorded his first timed workout a month before his 15th career win.

Fabulous Strike made three more starts, the last in August when he lost his rider out of the gate in a stakes at Mountaineer, and retired having won or placed in 21 of 28 races, nine in graded stakes, while earning $1,447,804. Now 18, he is a resident at Old Friends Thoroughbred Retirement Farm in Georgetown, Ky.

■ At age 28, Two Punch shot to the top of the region's leading 2-year-old sires list when his first two juvenile starters won in mid-April—his son Friscan at Keeneland, and the next day his daughter Bluegrass Atatude at Pimlico.

Next out Friscan finished third in Churchill Downs' Bashford Manor Stakes-G3. Bluegrass Atatude won the Maryland Million Lassie Stakes that fall in her third start.

Starting Lineup. The pony under saddle class at the 1928 My Lady's Manor Horse Show presented a competitive group to the judges.

Photojournalist A. Aubrey Bodine, who worked at the Baltimore *Sun* for 50 years – from 1920 until his death in 1970 – captured many scenes of Maryland horses, farms and racing. He was regarded worldwide as one of the finest pictorialists of the 20th century. *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* features his work in Past Time.

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